THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS
BENGALURU • MONDAY • MAY 11, 2026 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION

IMD issues heatwave alert for Guj, Rajasthan

People walk across the dry riverbed of the Sabarmati river on a hot summer day in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on Sunday. The heatwave is expected to continue for some more days with the India Meteorological Department issuing a yellow and orange alerts for parts of Gujarat and Rajasthan | **PTI**

Government of Bharat
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Key Activities

Kalash Yatra | Bhajan Sandhya | Chanting of the Omkar Mantra
Mantra Writing in the Somnath Booklet
Narration of Stories Associated with Somnath

Shri Somnath Temple Complex, Prabhas Patan | 8th –11th May 2026

"Somnath is that song of hope which teaches us that the power of creation is far greater than the power of destruction"

– Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi (Chairman, Shri Somnath Trust)

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To contribute to the divinity and grandeur of Somnath, and become a part of its glorious history.

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
• Monday: 11.05.2026 • Year: Parabhava • Ayana: Uttharayana
• Ritu: Vasantha • Masa: Vaishaka • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Navami 10.02 am
• Nakshatra: Sathabhisha 8.42 pm • Moon in Meena Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 22°C | MAX 34°C
FORECAST
Overcast

Sunrise 05.55 am
Sunset 06.36 pm
Moonrise 01.30 am
Moonset 01.32 pm

INFRA PUSH

Credit rating soon, five Corpns to float bonds

PM meets leaders; BJP gears up for GBA polls

AKNISREE KARTHIK
@ Bengaluru

WITH credit rating documentation completed, five city corporations under GBA are preparing major projects to be undertaken using municipal bonds. The five corporations are expected to get their credit ratings before the end of this month, post which they need to announce the project and generate the required funds by issuing municipal bonds.

To incentivise municipalities and develop urban areas, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced in the Union Budget that an incentive of Rs 100 crore would be provided for a single bond issue of more than Rs 1,000 crore. Even Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, while presenting the budget, asked the five corporations to mobilise resources for development works by issuing 'Municipal Bonds' based on their balance sheets. Each of the five corporations, in their maiden budgets in March, announced plans to issue municipal bonds worth Rs 200 crore.

"Earlier, we had BBMP, which was dissolved to form Greater Bengaluru Authority with five new city corporations. To issue municipal bonds, each corporation must have a credit rating, which, in simple terms, is an assessment of the borrower's creditworthiness. We have completed documentation work for the same," said GBA Special Commissioner (Finance) Harish Kumar.

He said there was a lot of preliminary work involved in applying for a credit rating. "All five corporations had to submit their assets and revenue to calculate their financial health. A presentation was given to SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) along with the necessary documents," he explained.

Bengaluru was the first city in the country to issue a municipal bond in 1997 through the then Bangalore Municipal Corporation, raising Rs 125 crore. With the city split into five corporations, the need for funds to take up infrastructure works has only increased, and municipal bonds are seen as a way to generate money to fund big-ticket projects. For every Rs 100 crore generated through municipal bonds, city corporations have been told they will get an incentive of Rs 13 crore from the Union government.

Harish Kumar said credit ratings are expected in 15 days and the five corporations are preparing major infrastructure projects.

To issue municipal bonds, each corporation must have a credit rating, which is an assessment of borrower's credit worthiness. We have completed paper work for the same

Harish Kumar, GBA Special Commissioner (Finance)

We will fight not just to win, but in the interest of citizens, who are fed up with the government. They promised 'Brand Bengaluru' but failed to deliver

BY Vijayendra, BJP State President

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AFTER Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed elected representatives, aspirants and party leaders from Bengaluru on Sunday, the BJP has stepped up preparations for the upcoming Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) polls. The party has scheduled a meeting on May 15 with BJP MLAs and city leaders to discuss election strategy.

Karnataka State Election Commissioner G S Sangreshi has announced that the GBA polls are tentatively expected to be held in the second or third week of June. Modi, who was in Bengaluru, addressed a gathering largely comprising elected representatives and party leaders from the city.

Speaking to *The New Indian Express,* BJP State President BY Vijayendra alleged that Congress government has neglected Bengaluru over the past three years. "There are several issues to take to the people, including bad roads, garbage and water problems. We will fight not just to win the polls, but in the interest of Bengaluru's citizens who are fed up with the Congress government," he said. Vijayendra said Bengaluru has traditionally been a BJP stronghold in both Lok Sabha and Assembly elections and expressed confidence that the party would secure a lion's share of seats. "The government promised a 'Brand Bengaluru' but has failed to deliver. We are determined to win all five corporations under the GBA," he added.

Party leaders believe the outcome of the Bengaluru civic polls will have wider political implications across the state ahead of the 2028 Assembly elections. Recalling the 2015 BBMP polls, a senior BJP leader, requesting anonymity, said that although the BJP won more than 50% of wards, the Congress and JD(S) joined hands to form the administration by bringing MLCs and Rajya Sabha MPs from other districts to Bengaluru to win the mayoral election.

"Congress was in power then and is in power now. There is a possibility of a similar move, and we have instructed our legal team to keep track of the situation," the leader said.

Sources also indicated that the BJP plans to hold discussions with JDS leaders regarding a possible alliance. "JDS may not have a significant voter base in Bengaluru, but their votes could help BJP," sources said.

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka said the party will hold a legislative meeting on May 15, along with a meeting of BJP leaders from Bengaluru, including MLAs and MPs. The meeting will also be attended by Ram Madhav and BL Santhosh.

"We have already constituted constituency-level committees that will submit a panel of three candidates each. The party will finalise candidates in the coming days," he said.

K-RIDE opens casting yard for 9 Kanaka Line stns

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A new casting yard and batching plant were inaugurated at Huskur Station on Corridor-4 (Kanaka Line) of the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Transport Project (BSTP) on Sunday, aimed at accelerating station construction and improving quality standards.

Rail Infrastructure Development Company – Karnataka (K-RIDE) Managing Director Lakshman Singh, after inaugurating the facility, said it has been established for construction works related to nine stations on the Kanaka Line, stretching from Heelalige to Rajanukunte via Yelahanka. He added that the centralised casting yard would significantly improve the speed, safety and quality control of the project. Speaking to *TNIE*, Singh said the casting yard measures around 400 metres in length and 34–40 metres in width. "Once you have a centralised casting yard of this capacity, the speed of construction increases. Quality of work, quality control and safety also improve because the operations are mechanised," he said.

Lakshman Singh, MD, KRIDE, inaugurates the batching plant and casting yard at Huskur Station of Corridor-4 (Kanaka Line) of BSTP on Sunday | EXPRESS

According to him, nearly 1,000 girders are required for the nine stations being executed under a contract handled by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). Each girder weighs around 20–30 metric tonnes.

"To manually cast girders at multiple locations would take almost two years. With this dedicated casting yard, the same work can be completed in around 10–12 months," he said, adding that the facility would substantially reduce delays and ensure better execution standards.

The casting yard is equipped with two gantry cranes, each with a lifting capacity of 60 metric tonnes, to aid the movement, placement, loading and unloading of heavy precast structures.

In addition, a batching plant has been installed at the site to ensure an uninterrupted supply of high-quality concrete required for precast works. Singh said the computerised plant will ensure consistent concrete quality. The integrated setup will streamline construction activities and improve coordination between concrete production and girder casting operations.

He added that contractors working on other suburban rail corridors are also establishing similar casting facilities to speed up station construction.

MUSICAL HOMAGE

A 100-voice Karnataka choir led by Debjani Mala Roy of Malancha performs at Chironuton 2026, a nationwide Rabindra Sangeet tribute marking Rabindranath Tagore's 165th birth anniversary, at Chowdiah Memorial Hall in Bengaluru on Sunday. The event brought together choirs from 11 states in a synchronised musical homage | EXPRESS

Bescom repair work damages water pipeline

KALYANI WARRIER
@ Bengaluru

BESCOM staff accidentally damaged the underground Cauvery water pipeline while trying to repair an underground electric cable after a transformer caught fire at 8 am on Saturday at BDA Layout, Hulimavu.

The valve of the pipeline was turned off to stop the wastage of water and flooding in the area. The cable was fixed and power was restored by around 11.30 am. The entire locality faced a power cut, while 20 households had no water supply, and residents of Axis Antara Apartments, Akshayanagar. Bescom officials said an earthmover digging to access the power line broke the Cauvery pipeline that was under it.

A BWSSB official said it is a 4-inch Cauvery pipeline that supplies water to the locality twice a week. The wall of the dug-up area was restored at 10 pm and the pipeline was patched around midnight. After repairs, the water supply to the households resumed.

Residents of the locality had setbacks as overhead water tanks could not be filled due to power cut, drained UPS backups led to lack of lighting after dark, and there was no supply of water due to the pipe burst.

Germany emerges as new academic, employment hub for students

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

GERMANY is emerging as a preferred destination for higher education and career opportunities among students from Karnataka and other parts of India, signalling a shift in study-abroad preferences, according to a survey by TerraTern conducted in March 2026.

The survey found that, apart from Mysuru, students from Bengaluru, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Udupi, Shivamogga and Davanagere are increasingly pursuing higher studies and employment in Germany.

More than 600 Indian students have already moved to Germany, with Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala emerging as the top contributing states.

Engineering, computer science, artificial intelligence, business administration and medicine remain the most sought-after courses. Many graduates are finding employment in sectors such as IT, automotive engineering, healthcare, finance and renewable energy, where demand for skilled professionals remains high.

Germany's tuition-free public universities, comparatively lower living costs and a structured 18-month post-study work visa system are among the key factors driving this shift. Students are increasingly prioritising affordability, employment prospects and long-term migration.

Workers remove an illegal banner on Sunday | EXPRESS

East Corpn starts anti-encroachment drive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A special enforcement drive was conducted on Sunday within the jurisdiction of the Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) amid rising encroachments on footpaths, major roadsides and public spaces.

The operation was carried out in the Hoodi, Ramamurthy Nagar and Kadugodi divisions. Upcoming encroachment-clearance drives will be held in Doddanekundi, Horamavu, Vijnanapura, Varthur and KR Puram divisions.

Roadside stalls, pushcarts, unauthorised parking, construction materials, shop extensions and illegal advertisement structures were removed during the operation. Additional Commissioner Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar said, "Footpaths are meant for safe pedestrian movement, but increasing encroachments by shops, temporary structures, street vendors, construction materials and advertisement boards are forcing pedestrians onto roads, creating traffic congestion and safety hazards. In the interest of public safety, phased operations are being undertaken across the city."

Teams comprising four marshals, 10 labourers, three tractors and a JCB machine were deployed in each ward. The operations are being supervised and coordinated by the respective ward engineers and assistant executive engineers.

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

11th May : Cosmic Hush Like the vast stretch of silent sand before a big wave, like the birds lifting at once, like the eerie stillness before winds gather, the heavens get quiet enough to hear a pin drop into this nearly aspectless moment in the fade of Taurus season. Moments rise ungrounded, suspended in a slow-motion inhale of anticipation.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You can't do it all at once, but you can juggle. You'll handle business and lob the personal into the air. You'll handle the personal and bounce the business up. Anything that gets dropped will be picked up in the next round.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)
It's nice when ideas come to you fully baked, but a half-baked one will be delicious, and a no-bake one will have its sweet charms, too. The important part is that you act on your ideas because today you're brilliant.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
Wins inform, losses inform, and neither defines you. Detach identity from outcome. You are the operator, not the scoreboard. This separation protects momentum. The work will continue with the same intensity regardless of recent results.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
Your life is unfolding to produce a new and intentional version of you. You'll have a positive effect on others. It's subtle but will become more evident as you go. You act, and they adjust. You move, and things change. Stay aware of your effect.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
You would love to cruise along in life, unimpeded by worry or doubt. However, that would make you vulnerable to unnecessary mistakes. Looking out for what could go wrong is intelligent. The trick is in making a quick and actionable assessment, then moving along.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
Your need can be a gift to others. Someone else will provide what you're missing. Maybe at one point they were just like you. And now, being in a position to help is a source of pride and self-esteem.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
Outcomes are not fully within your control today. You act with integrity and care, and the other person brings their own will. Focusing on your actions instead of more internal aspects will keep you anchored.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
When life gets hectic or starts to trend in an unusual direction, it can be easy to forget the essentials. Let existential angst be a cue to circle back to the checklist: Did you get enough sleep, nutrition, fresh air and exercise?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Turn comparison into calibration. When others succeed, you study. You try to see what they do differently, what they prioritize and how they recover from mistakes. Use their results as a measuring tool.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
The goal today is to bring people together. It's easier when you remember that connection doesn't mean agreement. Two people can see things differently and still bond in a meaningful and lasting way.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
Standing up for your circle shows heart. It takes a bigger heart to care for people everywhere and live like their well-being is tied to yours. It is. Your strong sense of personal responsibility shows up today, and you'll act in service of humanity.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
Being understood requires the right audience. This isn't about proving your depth to those who don't engage with it. It's about reserving that richness for connections that have the capacity to meet you where you are.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

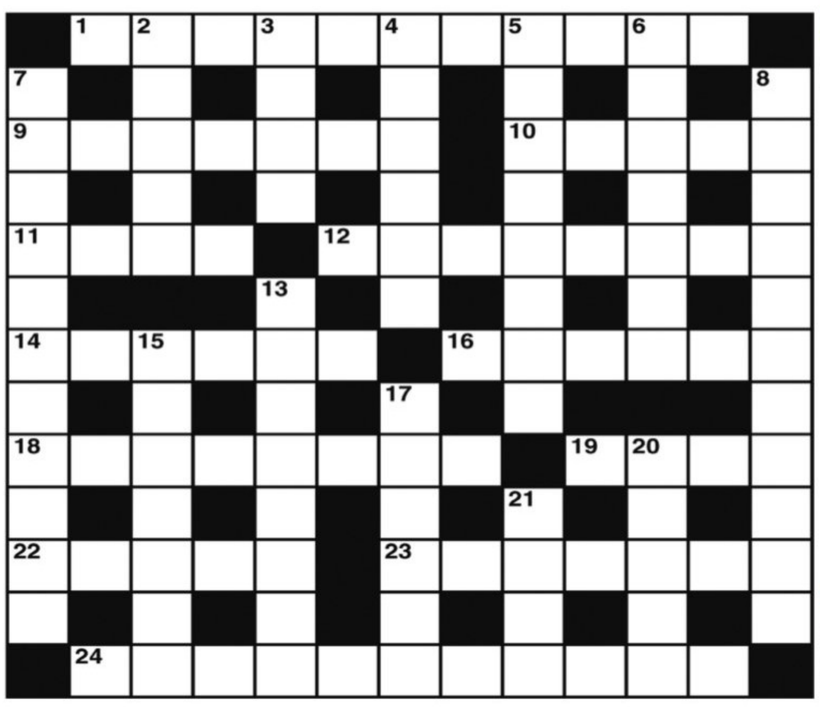
	7		2	1			3	4
3			4					
	2	6	8	3	9	5	1	
6	5	1	9					
					5	9	7	2
	8	7	6	9	1	3	4	
					4			6
5	6			2	3		9	

3	2	7	6	5	1	9	8	4
1	4	8	3	9	2	7	6	5
9	5	6	7	4	8	3	2	1
7	8	5	1	6	3	2	4	9
2	3	1	4	8	9	6	5	7
4	6	9	5	2	7	8	1	3
5	1	2	9	7	6	4	3	8
8	9	3	2	1	4	5	7	6
6	7	4	8	3	5	1	9	2

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Exhibit the iris to make a patriotic display (4,3,4)
9 Just a piano? (7)
10 I held wrong capital (5)
11 Lame ducks maybe (4)
12 Adventurous men who went to the top at sea (8)
14 It's written about the sailor's refuge (6)
16 Incense - a green variety (6)
18 Poison counter (8)
19 It took at least two days to build; possibly more (4)
22 Pass on to a punctuation mark (5)
23 One may take it to avoid it (7)
24 Case perhaps for outdoor pursuits (5,6)

DOWN
2 Hear mother repaired to the women's quarters (5)
3 Carry on fighting for one's pay (4)
4 Hired assassin? Good show, old boy! (3,3)
5 Trifling job for a musician (8)
6 State capital of Natal at variance (7)
7 A procession of empty protest (6,5)
8 The best side of a club (5,6)
13 Nominally she's discretion itself (8)
15 Caress a girl on the knee (7)
17 Still it could affect one's reception (6)
20 Man in Spain loses hard game (5)
21 Fishy article used as a tailpiece (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Walnut, 4 Scrabble, 9 Nobody, 10 Engraved, 12 Lily, 13 Mural, 14 Onus, 17 Step on the gas, 20 Joint concern, 23 Rood, 24 Fiend, 25 Otto, 28 Overlook, 29 Cobweb, 30 Shove off, 31 Loaded.

Down: 1 Windlass, 2 Labelled, 3 Urdu, 5 Convalescent, 6 Acre, 7 Bovine, 8 Eldest, 11 Putting it off, 15 Donor, 16 Pains, 18 Bestowed, 19 Entombed, 21 Brooms, 22 Bolero, 26 Blue, 27 Polo.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

VEIRR

NUBHC

ETGAHR

SELNOS

You've got a lot of fan mail up here!
Goodness! I thought I had speedy delivery before.
IF THE AFTERLIFE HAS A POST OFFICE, EVERYTHING IT DELIVERS WILL BE ---
3/16
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: _____ - _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: FLUSH AHEAD BEHALF LAWYER
Answer: The talking bookcase that knew exactly what was on it and where was — "SHELF" AWARE

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CSK'S URVIL HITS JOINT-FASTEST FIFTY IN 19-YEAR IPL HISTORY

Urvil Patel equalled the record of Yashavi Jaiswal, smashing a 13-ball half-century for Chennai Super Kings on Sunday...

SUPER KINGS MAKE STRIDES IN THE TABLE

Thanks to the 23-ball 65 from Patel, CSK beat Lucknow Super Giants by five wickets, moving to fifth in the table. CSK restricted LSG to 203/8 before getting across the line in the final over. Patel, who came in at No 3, took Avesh Khan for three sixes before hitting 22 runs in an Digvesh Rathi over. By the time, he was done, Patel had smashed 8 sixes and 2 fours.

EMOTIONAL PATEL DEDICATES KNOCK TO DAD

- After reaching the half-century in 13 balls, Urvil put his hands together to thank in the direction of the pavillion before taking out a piece of paper from his pocket.
- 'This is for you papa' the paper read in English along with a message in Gujarati, dedicating the innings to his father | **P13**

98 n.o

JAISWAL REACHED HIS FIFTY IN 13 BALLS DURING THE 98* VS KKR IN 2023

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

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Leopard kills 10-yr-old boy from B'luru in MM Hills

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

A 10-year-old boy from Bengaluru was attacked and killed by a leopard at Nagamale near Male Mahadeshwara Hills in Hanur taluk in the early hours of Sunday. This is the second such incident in Chamarajanagar in recent times, triggering concern among devotees and the public.

The boy, Harshith, and his family had visited the MM Hills Temple and were proceeding to Nagamale on foot when the leopard pounced on the boy and dragged him away.

The body was found around half-an-hour later, with his neck and other parts soaked in blood, local residents said. Forest watchers reached the spot soon after receiving the information and alerted senior officials.

"We were not told about the presence of wild animals in this area. Most of us were women in the group," said one of Harshith's family members.

Devotees and local residents were angry with the Forest Department for allegedly failing to ensure adequate safety measures for pilgrims visiting the region.

In January, a youngster was killed when a group of devotees from Mandya was heading to MM Hills on foot.

YOGI EXPANDS CABINET, BRINGS NEW FACES

In the run-up to the UP Assembly elections early next year, the ruling BJP on Sunday expanded the Yogi Adityanath cabinet by inducting six new faces and promoting two ministers of state | **P10**

TVK founder-president and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay along with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the swearing-in ceremony that took place in Chennai on Sunday | **ASHWIN PRASATH**

VIJAY SWORN IN AS TAMIL NADU CM

On Day 1, signs orders to create special force for women's safety, offer 200 units free electricity to domestic users

SUBASHINI VIJAYAKUMAR
@ Chennai

SHATTERING the six-decade-long electoral dominance of the DMK and AIADMK in Tamil Nadu, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) founder-president C Joseph Vijay on Sunday assumed office as the state's chief minister, scripting a historic rise within just around two years of launching his party.

State Governor Rajendra Arlekar administered the oath of office and secrecy to Vijay and his nine-member cabinet in the presence of Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, who is now a coalition partner of the TVK. The nine TVK MLAs-elect who were sworn in as minister are are N Anand, Aadhav Arjuna, K G Arunraj, K A Sengottaiyan, P Venkataramanan, R Nirmalkumar, Rajmohan, T K Prabhu and S Keerthana.

Immediately after being sworn in, the 51-year-old signed government orders to create a specialised police unit to improve women's safety and to sanction 65 Anti-Narcotic Task Force (ANTF) stations across Tamil Nadu. He also greenlit the provision of 200 units of free electricity bi-monthly for all domestic consumers with consumption up to 500 units. This was a major poll promise of the TVK chief.

In his first speech as Chief Minister, Vijay said his government would soon release a white paper detailing the exact financial and administrative condition of Tamil Nadu.

"Only after entering office do you realise the actual condition, what exists and what does not. I want this to be a transparent government. I want to openly tell you the situation of the government today and then take things forward from there," he said.

Stating that the government had assumed office at a time when the state was burdened with debts of nearly ₹10 lakh crore, Vijay requested people to give him time to implement his promises. "I will gradually try to fulfil what I promised, and I will fulfil them. Your patience and cooperation will help me greatly," he said.

He also asserted that his government would take strict measures to ensure women's safety and curb the drug menace in the state. "It is the duty of our government to save our youth. Likewise, I will ensure law and order and safety for everyone. Even those who insulted me or troubled me are still my people. Whether friends or enemies, all eight crore individuals are my people," he said.

Vijay said that his government's immediate focus would be on basic issues such as education, ration supplies, healthcare, drinking water, roads and bus facilities. Reiterating his earlier promise, he said he would not misuse public funds. "I will not commit mistakes, nor allow mistakes to happen. If anyone thinks, 'We have won, let us misuse this power and play games', erase that thought right now," he warned.

He further said women, youth, farmers, government employees, teachers, workers and fishermen would prosper under the TVK rule. **P7**

TN Governor Rajendra Arlekar congratulates CM C Joseph Vijay on Sunday | **PJAWAHAR**

CONTROVERSY ON FIRST DAY

Right on his first day in office, controversy brewed after a section of spectators at the swearing-in ceremony raised alarm over the Thamizhthaai Vaazhthu being pushed to a distant third place, following all six stanzas of Vande Mataram and the National Anthem. However, this arrangement was based on an order dated January 28, in which the Union Ministry of Home Affairs put forth the guidelines to ensure uniformity and clarity in ceremonial practices across the country

Assam CM-elect Himanta Sarma meets Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya | **PTI**

Himanta to take oath on Tuesday

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

HIMANTA Biswa Sarma will be sworn in as Assam chief minister for a second consecutive term on May 12, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah among the dignitaries expected to attend the ceremony.

Sarma was on Sunday unanimously elected leader of both the BJP and NDA Legislature parties, paving the way for his return. The BJP had appointed Union Minister J P Nadda and Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini as observer and co-observer, respectively, to oversee the election process.

Sarma, accompanied by leaders of NDA allies BJP, Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and Bodoland People's Front (BPF) subsequently met Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya at Lok Bhavan and staked his claim to form the next government.

The NDA had swept the state Assembly elections, bagging 102 of 126 seats, with BJP alone winning 82, with AGP and BPF claiming 10 each.

Thanking the people of Assam and the BJP's top leadership for electing the coalition for a third straight time, Sarma said, "I thank PM Narendra Modiji for taking Assam's development to a level we could not imagine."

He also acknowledged and thanked Home Minister Shah for maintaining peace in Assam. "The results are a reflection of the development initiatives," he added.

Save fuel, WFH amid WAsia crisis: PM

MEGHNA NATH @ Hyderabad

IN the wake of the ongoing West Asia conflict, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, for the first time, extensively spoke about the need to save foreign exchange by avoiding foreign travel and gold purchases for a year, reducing fuel consumption by reviving Covid-era practices such as work from home, and invoking patriotism as India attempts to tide over the crisis.

Addressing a public meeting at Parade Ground in Secunderabad, Modi said the conflict in West Asia had led to a sharp increase in petrol and fertiliser prices. "When there is pressure on the supply chain, difficulties increase despite various measures taken by the government to overcome the crisis. During such a global crisis, we must place the country above everything else and take certain resolutions," he said.

Earlier in the day, while virtually laying foundation stones and inaugurating development projects worth around ₹9,400 crore for Telangana, Modi stressed the need for restrained use of petroleum products.

Modi: Internal fight in Cong; not sure how long CM will last

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday lashed out at Congress for indulging in internal party squabbles since it came to power three years ago in Karnataka, and pushing governance to the backseat.

Addressing party workers at the HAL Airport after being felicitated by the state BJP unit for winning West Bengal Assembly elections, he said, "We have been witnessing it (squabbles) for the past three years. Instead of resolving the public's problems, the government here spends the majority of its time resolving its own internal squabbles. It remains undecided how long the chief minister (Siddaramaiah) will remain in office, or whether someone else will be given an opportunity. The entire matter is in a limbo."

He claimed that for BJP governments, public welfare is paramount as it has been demonstrated with 25 crore people being lifted out of poverty in the country. "Our mantra is 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' and our model is one of good governance. That is why, in every state, the public grants BJP the opportunity to serve them a second, and often a third, time," he added.

"In contrast, no Congress state government has ever returned to power for a second term. Within just a few months, anti-incumbency sets in. This is because Congress knows nothing but betrayal. They themselves are deceitful and their guarantees are equally false. In the Congress' book of power, the chapter on governance simply does not exist," he commented.

MORE REPORTS ON P4

Prime Minister Modi addresses BJP workers at HAL Airport in Bengaluru on Sunday | **VINOD KUMAR T**

2 gelatine sticks found close to PM's route on B'luru outskirts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

JUST 30 minutes before Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived at the Art of Living Centre on the outskirts of the city on Sunday, the police recovered two gelatine sticks in a cover placed close to his convoy route.

Earlier in the morning, the Koramangala police received a threat call on the VVIP movement. But the recovery of gelatine sticks and the threat call were not linked. Modi was visiting HAL and the Art of Living in Bengaluru and Bengaluru South district, and both events concluded without any untoward incidents.

A police constable, identified as Jagadeesh, and the Anti-Sabotage Check Team noticed the gelatine sticks around 10.30 am near Vaderahalli Gate.

CONTINUED ON P4

Min D Sudhakar dies after long illness

G SUBHASH CHANDRA
@ Chitradurga

KARNATAKA Minister for Planning and Statistics D Sudhakar (65) passed away at the Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences in Bengaluru at 3.15 am on Sunday. He had been undergoing treatment for a lung infection for nearly two months.

Sudhakar, elected from the Hiriyur Assembly segment, also served as the Chitradurga district in-charge minister.

Sudhakar, who was admitted to Manipal Hospital in Bengaluru on March 26 for a knee surgery, developed a lung infection and was later moved to Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences in Electronics City three days later for further treatment. He was treated by a specialist doctor from Hyderabad.

CM Siddaramaiah and Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot console the family members of minister D Sudhakar, in Bengaluru on Sunday | **EXPRESS**

Sudhakar is survived by his wife Harshini, son Suhas and daughter Spoorthi. Hailing from the Jain community, he was elected to the Assembly for one term from Challakere and twice from Hiriyur, from where he had lost once.

The sixth son of Dasharathiah and Kanchanamala, Sudhakar was a successful businessman who also made his mark in politics. Sudhakar, who learnt his political lessons from his uncle N Jayanna, an MLA from Challakere, entered electoral politics in 2004 after the latter's death and won.

After Challakere was reserved for STs, he shifted to Hiriyur. He won as an independent from Hiriyur and later joined hands with BJP and was made the social welfare minister, and later muzrai minister.

When Challakere became a reserved constituency in 2008, he shifted base to Hiriyur and contested as an independent. **P4**

EXPRESS READ

Jairam lambasts Centre over Nicobar project

New Delhi: Congress leader Jairam Ramesh attacked the Centre on the ₹72,000 crore Great Nicobar Island Development Project, alleging that the environmental studies used to grant nod were "grossly inadequate" and reduced the Environmental Impact Assessment process to a "mockery" |**P9**

JDU's Nishant likely to take Council route

Patna: Former Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar's son and state Health Minister Nishant Kumar is likely to be elected to the state Legislative Council. Nishant was inducted into the state cabinet for the first time on Thursday last |**P10**

After PM Modi addressed elected representatives, aspirants and party leaders from Bengaluru on Sunday, the BJP has stepped up preparations for the upcoming Greater Bengaluru Authority polls. The party has scheduled a meeting on May 15 with BJP MLAs and city leaders to discuss election strategy

MODI SAYS RECENT BJP WINS SHOW PEOPLE ARE MARCHING WITH PARTY'S VISION OF NATIONAL INTEREST; WILL COME TO POWER IN KERALA TOO

(Left) BJP leaders BY Vijayendra, Pralhad Joshi, BS Yediyurappa and R Ashoka felicitate PM Modi at HAL Airport in Benglauru on Sunday; Modi with Art of Living founder and spiritual leader Gurudev Sri Sri Ravishankar after the inauguration of 'Dhyan Mandir' at AOL | VINOD KUMAR T, NAGARAJA GADEKAL

PM: POWER-HUNGRY CONG A PARASITE, BACKSTABS ALLIES

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Bengaluru

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the recent NDA victories in West Bengal, Assam and Puducherry Assembly elections show that the people of the country are marching with the BJP's vision of national interest.

He tore into Congress, accusing it of betraying its allies. Referring to the Grand Old Party dumping its long-time ally DMK in Tamil Nadu to join hands with actor-turned-politician Joseph Vijay's TVK, he said, "In Tamil Nadu, Congress maintained a close relationship with DMK for the last 25 to 30 years. That alliance helped pull Congress out of various crises. Even the government they ran for 10 years prior to 2014 survived solely because of DMK. But what happened? With the very DMK with whom they shared a bond of 'living and dying together'... the very party that worked tirelessly for the betterment of Congress... the moment the political game for power shifted elsewhere... power-hungry Congress backstabbed DMK," he said.

The parasitic Congress now needs yet another party (TVK) to ride on to remain politically relevant, he said, addressing BJP workers who felicitated him at HAL Airport in Bengaluru on Sunday morning.

Modi accused Congress of misleading the nation over the delay in government formation in Tamil Nadu. "You have an absolute majority in Kerala. Why haven't you formed a government there yet? This very ecosystem remains silent regarding Kerala. Their leaders are unable to reach a consensus -- should they adopt a two-and-a-half years each formula or get five CMs to serve one year each," he said. He said Congress makes promises to their own party leaders only to stab them in the back later. "They did exactly this in Chhattisgarh; they did the same in Rajasthan, that same game is currently playing out in Karnataka; and now, it is Kerala's turn," he said.

He said the Congress government in Himachal Pradesh is unable to pay salaries to its employees. In Congress-ruled Telangana, farmers are being driven to suicide. "In essence, wherever Congress is in power -- whether it is under the guise of a 'royal court' or otherwise -- either the public exchequer is being looted, or they are squabbling amongst themselves over stolen wealth," he said.The moment Congress leaders spot an opportunity, they do not hesitate to betray even their own allies, he alleged. He said people of India want speed and solutions, and not scams, and they want politics rooted in national interest. "Today, the entire nation is marching shoulder-to-shoulder with BJP's vision of national interest."

He said the entire nation is abuzz with discussions regarding the recent election results. They have scripted a new history and are significant for the political trajectory and direction of India. They reflect the mood of every section of Indian society -- the youth, women, farmers, poor, and middle class. A profound message embedded in these results is that, in a world beset by instability, the people of India are offering the mantra of stability," he added.

BJP at the helm at the Centre for 12 years, and BJP-led NDA governments in power in over 21 states across the country work with the guiding principle that the development of the country stems from the development of its states, he observed. "Look at Congress... a party that just 40 years ago secured over 400 seats has failed to even touch the 100-seat mark, even when aggregating their totals across the last three general elections," Modi chided.

Accusing Congress and allies of being arrogant and blaming "the entire world" for their own defeat, he said they harbour hatred even towards the Constitution, democracy, constitutional processes and courts. "In my public life, I have never witnessed any party behaving in such a manner. They have sunk so deep into the abyss of despair that, apart from hurling abuses and using foul language, they have absolutely no agenda left," he added.

He gave a call to the people to stand together to steer India through global challenges. "A crisis situation persists in West Asia. This atmosphere of conflict has had a negative impact on the world, and India, too, is being affected by it," he said.

BJP supporters cheer as Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a gathering at HAL Airport in Bengaluru on Sunday | VINOD KUMAR T

'Cong stalled Women's Bill, people won't forgive'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

PM Modi said that women of Karnataka will never forgive Congress for betraying them by opposing the 33% reservation for women in legislatures and Parliament by voting down the Nari Shakti Vandan amendment in Parliament.

"Had this amendment been passed, the number of seats allocated to Karnataka in the Lok Sabha would have increased significantly. A large number of sisters and daughters from Karnataka would have become MLAs and MPs, becoming active participants in shaping the destiny of the nation. But Congress did not allow this to happen. The women of this country -- specifically women of Karnataka -- will never forgive Congress for this sin," he said.

"It is essential that both the ease of living and the ease of doing business are improved in Karnataka. I assure every family here that the BJP-led NDA government is making every possible effort to achieve this," he said. Impressed by the massive gathering with groups wearing saffron attire and turbans, he exclaimed, "I see that a saffron sun has risen from the soil of Bengaluru."

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka said Modi's visit will invigorate the party and help it win polls to the five corporations in GBA. BJP state president BY Vijayendra claimed that under the leadership of Modi and Amit Shah, BJP will win the 2028 Assembly polls in Karnataka.

'DAY NOT FAR FOR BJP TO COME TO POWER IN KERALA'

Addressing BJP workers in Bengaluru's HAL Airport, PM Narerndra Modi said in West Bengal, the number of BJP MLAs went up from three to over 200 in just 10 years. "Similarly, in Kerala, we have now increased our tally from one to three. The day is not far when the BJP-NDA's strength in Kerala, too, will surge past this number to cross the threshold of a legislative majority," he said. On BJP's presence in South India, he noted that NDA is in power in Andhra Pradesh and in terms of Lok Sabha representation, BJP stands at number one in Karnataka and number two in Telangana, adding that in Puducherry, it is part of the government for the second consecutive term.

DKS: ALL CHAIRS ARE STABLE

Deputy Chief Minister and state Congress president D K Shivakumar on Sunday refuted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's accusation that the Karnataka CM's chair is shaky. Speaking to reporters at Lingasagur in Raichur district, the DyCM said no chairs are shaky, and all chairs are stable. "I don't know what the Prime Minister is seeing," he said, responding to a question on the PM's statement that the CM's chair is shaky. Earlier in the day, addressing the BJP workers in Bengaluru, the PM slammed Congress over its internal squabbles.

PM to youth: Help build India, attain Viksit goals

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday called on the youth to collectively participate in nation building and attaining Viksit Bharat goals. Speaking at the Art of Living campus, he had special appreciation for Bengaluru and its people, saying the city is not just known for its software and services sector, but has also helped elevate India through spiritual and cultural consciousness.

While giving youngsters their due as the biggest reason for India's growth, he claimed they face many challenges today, and need encouragement to face them. Organisations such as Art of Living (AOL) are helping them navigate these challenges in modern times, strengthen the feeling of oneness, and encourage collective responsibility among people. These organisations are also giving people the opportunity to know and understand their culture better, he said.

The PM was speaking on the sidelines of the inauguration of 'Dhyan Mandir' at AOL. He participated in the celebration of 45 years of the organization, and the 70th birthday celebrations of AOL founder and spiritual leader Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.

Modi launched nine nationwide service initiatives aimed at bringing inclusive development across education, youth and women empowerment, reforestation, environmental conservation, tribal welfare, healthcare, prison reform and digital literacy. He said the aim of Viksit Bharat can be achieved through young people who are mentally calm, socially responsible and sensitive to society. Today, spiritual well-being, mental health and meditation are important, he said.

"Missions can be successful only when there is societal support. Society is more powerful than politics and government. Any government can be successful only when society actively participates in nation building. For attaining successful missions, encouraging and supporting youth is very important," he said.

The PM said technology helps connect people instantaneously, but today, it is essential that people connect with themselves. He also referred to the Central government's Mission LiFE initiative and said it represented a conscious and responsible lifestyle which is needed in today's times.

He used the platform to urge people to use organic products. People are looking for natural healing, they should work for natural healing of soil which has been destroyed by the use of chemical fertilizers. Ecology and economy cannot be separated. People should work on afforestation, water and electricity conservation, ban single-use plastic and encourage locally made products, he added.

Gurudev appreciated Modi for his contribution to nation building, saying, "You have taken steps towards bringing peace in the country and abroad. Today, the people of India walk with pride and safety because India has reached greater heights. Today, the country feels cleaner, more beautiful, more secure and filled with a renewed sense of confidence. Earlier, people abroad would say India could never rise like this, but in less than ten years, India has transformed from a country that asked to a country that gives."

'Under the shadow of the Lotus'

Today the Dhyan Mandir has been inaugurated. When the goal/ambition is clear and work is done with selfless efforts, then all efforts lead to positive results. Whether anything remains or not, we are all under the shadow of the Lotus. And if Gurudev's blessings continue, then the Lotus' shade will take the country to new heights, said PM Modi, referring to the ceiling of the spiritual centre which is designed like a lotus.

Participants at the inauguration of the Dhyan Mandir at AOL on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

GELATINE STICKS: NO ARRESTS MADE SO FAR, SAYS SP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

THE team was conducting security checks as part of the Prime Minister's programme at AoL, which was scheduled at 11 am.

Bengaluru South district Superintendent of Police R Srinivas Gowda said the gelatine sticks, packed in a cover, were found about 1 km away from the NICE Road junction, nearly 20 feet away from the road on a compound wall. The police constable, who was deployed along the PM's convoy route, got suspicious of the cover and alerted senior officers, who rushed to the spot and recovered the gelatine sticks. No arrests have been made so far, the SP said.

DIG, Central Range, S Girish, who also visited the spot, told reporters that the investigation is under way to ascertain who placed the gelatine sticks and how the explosive material was brought to the spot.

The Kaggalipura police registered a case against an unknown person under the Explosives Act, and special teams have been formed under Ramanagara DySP Srinivas to investigate the case.

Man detained for hoax call

A senior police officer said the Koramangala police received an anonymous threat call around 7 am, claiming that there will be blasts at places where PM Modi will be visiting. Swinging into action, the Koramangala police detained a man identified as Lohith (40), who is reportedly mentally unsound and had previously made similar threat calls during VIP visits to the city.

A senior police officer said there was no connection between the threat call and the recovery of gelatine sticks.

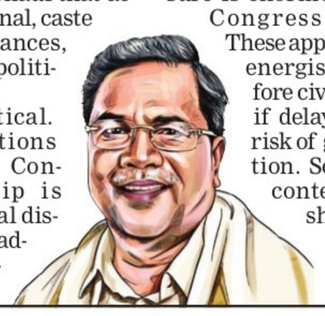
Siddaramaiah off to Delhi again, cabinet reshuffle or big change likely

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

WITH the Congress government in Karnataka set to cross the crucial three-year mark, CM Siddaramaiah is heading to New Delhi, setting off speculation of a political reset within the state administration. What appears to be routine consultation with the party high command could be more significant -- the big question is whether a reshuffle or leadership change is on the cards. The priority is likely to be a long-anticipated cabinet reshuffle, which is no longer just about filling vacancies, but about political loyalties and electoral strategy ahead of the Greater Bengaluru Authority elections.

Sources indicate that Siddaramaiah is expected to hold detailed discussions with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and others. The immediate trigger is the void left by the death of minister D Sudhakar, and two other existing vacancies. However, within party circles, there is a growing consensus that a stopgap arrangement may not suffice. Pressure is mounting for a full-scale cabinet overhaul that accommodates regional, caste and factional balances, while rewarding political loyalty.

Timing is critical. With GBA elections looming up, the Congress leadership is aware that internal discontent, if left unaddressed, could result in electoral setbacks in its urban strongholds. Sources say a leadership change too cannot be ruled out.



Parallel to the cabinet churn is an equally significant exercise: the reconstitution of boards, corporations and commissions. The tenure of nearly 80 chairpersons and members has lapsed, triggering a scramble among aspirants. The pressure is enormous, admitted a Congress functionary. These appointments could energise the cadre before civic elections, and if delayed, there is the risk of growing frustration. Sources said the contentious leadership issue could also figure during the visit.

Govt to name irrigation project after D Sudhakar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA government has declared a three-day state mourning following the demise of Minister for Planning and Statistics and senior Congress MLA D Sudhakar on Sunday.

The State Government will also name an irrigation project after Sudhakar, Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, who also holds the water resources portfolio, said.

Meanwhile, the State Government has declared a holiday for schools and colleges and offices in Chitradurga, where the last rites of Sudhakar will be held.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who paid tributes to the MLA in Bengaluru, remembered Sudhakar's contribution in the cooperation sector. He said the funeral will be held with full state honours at Challakere in Chitradurga on Monday. The mortal remains of the Congress leader have been kept at Hiriyur for public viewing. Sudhakar was elected to the Assembly from Hiriyur in 2023.

Shivakumar told reporters that Sudhakar fought for the implementation of the Upper Bhadra project. "He had a great desire to complete the Upper Bhadra Project and inaugurate it. He had fought considerably for this project. We had thought of inaugurating this project under his chairmanship. In Sudhakar's memory, we will consider naming one of the irrigation projects after him. He was my close friend and a minister in our cabinet. The credit for registering the highest number of members in the party membership drive goes to Sudhakar. We remember the hardships he and his workers endured to make the programme a success when rain caused disruption during Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra," Shivakumar said.

Many BJP leaders, including party state president BY Vijayendra and LoP R Ashoka, expressed their condolences.

Meanwhile, the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected MLAs from Bagalkot and Davanagere South has also been postponed.

HE WAS KNOWN FOR HIS HELPFUL NATURE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

After winning the seat, D Sudhakar extended support to former chief minister B S Yediyurappa and BJP, eventually serving as social welfare minister. However, due to some controversies, he lost this portfolio and got the muzrai department. Finally, he had to fight in courts after being disqualified by the Speaker. In 2013, Sudhakar contested on a Congress ticket from Hiriyur and won against A Krishnappa. In 2018, he lost to Krishnapa's daughter Poornima Srinivas of BJP. But in 2023, he defeated Poornima. Sudhakar, who had a firm grip on both Challakere and Hiriyur seats, always responded to the hardships of the poor, downtrodden and Dalits. Known for his helpful nature, there were many instances of him helping the needy by using funds from his own pocket. He has established himself in the public mind as a generous donor by providing free education to many poor children in his educational institution and supporting the needy.

Hundreds of environmentalists and locals came together in Mysuru on Sunday to protest the proposed felling of 350 trees to make way for a flyover near Manipal Hospital Junction, urging the government to protect Mysuru's green heritage as the iconic tree-lined roads were the vision of Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar and prioritised the development of broad roads flanked by greenery

RIGHT TO VOTE

Bhushan: SIR a plan to set up Hindu rashtra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

PRASHANT Bhushan, a senior advocate at the Supreme Court, called the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) to be the latest "weapon" in Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) history trying to establish a "Hindu rashtra".

Bhushan was the keynote speaker at a public seminar on the Delimitation Bill, the Women's Reservation Bill and the SIR, held on Sunday. He said that SIR, in its current version, is a targeted exercise to disenfranchise the nation's Muslim voters. "When the BJP came to power, they said that they wanted a Hindu rashtra; but over time they realised that they could not amend the constitution to erode secularism and reduce Muslims and minorities to second class citizens. They tried to impose the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, but the Supreme Court intervened and stopped it from being used on a communal basis," he said.

> **BJP tried to impose the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, but the Supreme Court intervened and stopped it from being used on a communal basis**
>
> Prashant Bhushan
> Senior advocate, SC

According to Bhushan, the arrival of SIR in the manner it did, clouded the transparency a fair election should have in the service of vested interests. "Since the time India's first voter list was made in 1951, there was no requirement to fill an enumeration form even once. The litany of documents required is extensive: we saw in Bihar that the percentage of the population that had even one of the required docs was less than 50%." He continued to cite the West Bengal elections to be the starkest example of targeted exclusion, saying, "They used the trick of 'logical discrepancy' like spelling errors. Only around 27% of West Bengal is Muslim; and yet, over one-thirds of the population deleted from the list was found to be Muslim. This targeting is deliberate, and is possible with the software that the Election Commission of India (ECI) uses."

Bhushan said that the Delimitation Bill would introduce disparity and potentially disenfranchise Southern states of the country. "If the proposed delimitation bill is passed, Southern states with little population growth will lose a lot of seats and the balance of power will shift towards the North, where population has grown rampantly. They will be essentially penalising Southern states for conducting population control," he said.

FLAVOUR OF LOVE

A woman feeds her pet dog a fresh slice of mango while on a walk near Bal Bhavan, at the Mango & Jackfruit Mela in Bengaluru on Sunday | KEVIN NASHON

6 phones, 8 SIMs seized in raid at Parappana Agrahara

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

OFFICIALS of the Bengaluru Central Prison found six mobile phones, eight SIM cards, and other prohibited items during a surprise raid conducted between May 8 and 9. Two separate FIRs were registered and four undertrial prisoners were named in the FIR made on Saturday.

The Parappana Agrahara police officials carried out a surprise inspection between 1.45 pm and 3.30 pm under the supervision of Assistant Superintendent TK Lokesh in Security Section 2, Room No 6. During the raid, prohibited electronic items were recovered from the cells of four undertrial prisoners identified as Mustafa , Abubal Rahman, Salman, and Fazal.

Officials seized four mobile phones, seven SIM cards, one earbud device, two earphones, a charging cable and adapter from the inmates' possession. Based on a complaint filed by Superintendent-in-Charge B R Adhani, police registered an FIR against the four inmates and launched an investigation to ascertain how the mobile phones were smuggled into the prison despite security checks.

In another FIR registered on Friday, officials found two mobile phones and a SIM card near a pillar in Room No 11 during the surprise raid. Officials are yet to ascertain who the prohibited items belonged to. The prison superintendent sought action against those who allegedly helped smuggle the banned items into the jail and facilitated their usage by inmates. Police have registered a case under Section 42 of the Karnataka Prisons (Amendment) Act and other relevant provisions.

Prisons dept aims to recruit 550 ex-Army personnel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Department of Prisons and Correctional Services announced physical fitness and 'Shape One' standard tests for the recruitment of 550 former soldiers on a contract basis for the financial year 2026–27. The recruitment process will begin from May 11 to May 16 at the Karnataka State Reserve Police 3rd and 4th Battalion Parade Grounds in Bengaluru.

The candidates must report at 6.30 am on the scheduled dates for the tests. Candidates must not have any criminal record and be under 45 years of age. They should complete a 3-km run within 20 minutes as part of the physical efficiency test. Preference will be given to candidates who complete the run in less time. For more details or assistance contact the helpline number 080-22262263 or 7483498052.

Over 34% of India lives with restricted mobility: Svayam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

SVAYAM, an accessibility-proponent organisation, released a report which found that over 34% of India's population experiences reduced mobility, including elders and those dealing with temporary or situational limitations, with up to 50% being affected indirectly. The report reveals that of the entire gamut of persons with disabilities (PwDs) in India, only 36% are employed, and has a sharp gender gap, with around 47% of disabled men being employed, as compared to less than half with 23% of disabled women being employed.

Road travel also has key hindrance across nation, "Over 42,000 buses are partially accessible and 8,695 buses are fully accessible. Only 3,120 of 3,533 bus stations are accessible. Less than 6% of government buses are fully accessible and only 15% of all bus stations nationwide are upgraded. Only 90 of India's 162 operational airports are fully accessible. Many regional airports remain partially accessible making air travel challenging for persons with reduced mobility from rural areas," the report states.

EXPRESS READ

IPL betting racket busted in B'gavi; 1 held

BELAGAVI: Market Police in the city raided an alleged online IPL cricket betting operation and arrested one accused while seizing cash and a mobile phone used for betting activities. Police said, the raid was conducted on May 9, near the Marathi School area at Jail Ground in Market Police limits. The arrested accused is Sufiyan Abdulsalam Shaikh (29) of Azad Nagar, Belagavi. Police said Sufiyan was allegedly involved in online IPL betting using a mobile phone linked to another accused, identified as Jaghir Pirzade. **ENS**

IN THE COURT OF THE SPECIAL SUB COURT TO DEAL WITH MCOP CASES THIRUVALLUR-602001 COURT NO II AT THIRUVALLUR MCOP NO. 239 OF 2022

Balachandar ...Petitioner
VS
R1. B. Pandu Ranga, ...Respondent
To:
B. Pandu Ranga, S/o. Arkallappa, Prop.Geetha Transport, W.No 16, D.No.037, Earhaligamma Temple, Rupannagudi Road, Bellary, Karnataka- 583101

Sir,

Please take notice that the petitioner has filed above petition for you are intentionally evading to receive the notice through process of court. if you have any objection you may appear before this Hon'ble Court at **10.30 am on 03.06.2026** either in person or through an advocate and file your objection if you fail to do so the matter will be decided expert.

By Court Order
T. JAYACHANDRAN
Counsel for Petitioner Advocate,
Thiruvallur **Cell: 97378 19194**

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intending of purchase the schedule property from **Sri. Nagaesh. S/o. Sri. Late. Ramakrishnaiah**, residing at Karigowdanadoddi village, Urugahalli dakhale, Urugapura post, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Bengaluru South district, (AADHAR No: xxxx xxxx 2277).

Any person/banking institutions/company, etc., has got any sort of legal right, claim, interest over the schedule property or having any sort of objection for the said sale transaction, shall approach the under mentioned Advocate within 7 **days** from this day, with documentary evidence, failing which my client shall proceed further in accordance with the terms of the agreement to sell considering there is no objection to the said sale transaction.

SCHEDULE-PROPERTY:

All that piece and parcel of the immovable agricultural property bearing **Re. Sy No.240/2, old Sy No. 240,** measuring **01 acre** of land situated at **Kodiyala karenahalli village, Bidadi-2 Hobli, Ramanagar Taluk, Bengaluru south district** and bounded on

East by : property belonging to Sri. Nagaraja Rao, West by : Property bearing Re. Sy NO. 240/4, North by : Property belonging to Sri. Nagaraja Rao, South by : Road and thereafter Re. Sy NO. 240/4.

N.S. SHIVASHANKAR, Advocate
No. 207, Ground Floor,
26th Cross, Behind BWSSB Office,
Uttarahalli- Kengeri Main Road
Poorna Prajna Nagar, Bengaluru-560061.
Ph No. 93430 94442, 98459 31901

SALE NOTICE
UNDER INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY CODE, 2016
SAALIM SHOES PVT. LTD.
(UNDER LIQUIDATION)
CIN : U19111TN2006PTC060267
Regd. Office: No.: 1-A, Regency Apartment, No.: 5, 1st Lane, Nungambakkam High Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600034, Tamil Nadu, India.
Factory Premises : 'A' - UNIT No. 143/3, M.B.T. Road, Walajah Taluk, Ranipet - 632401.
(The CD is in the business of manufacturing the leather & footwear, The export of footwear, leather and leather products)

The property of Corporate Debtor, M/s. Saalim Shoes Private Limited (Under Liquidation) is offered for sale under Regulation 32 of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016 as amended from time to time, by the appointed Liquidator of the Hon'ble NCLT, Chennai, "in parcels", under "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" condition. The sale will be conducted through e-auction platform "https://baanknet.com", (with unlimited extension of 10 minutes each)

Inspection period: From 13.05.2026 To 09.06.2026 (Between 10 am & 4 pm)
DATE OF E-AUCTION: 11.06.2026 (THURSDAY)

Timing	Asset Description	Manner of Sale	Reserve Price ₹	EMD Amount ₹	Incremental Bid Amt ₹
11 AM to 1 PM	LAND & BUILDING	AS IS WHERE-IS BASIS	18 Cr.	1.50 Cr.	3 Lakhs

ADDRESS AND ASSET DETAILS :
'A' - UNIT No. 143/3, M.B.T. Road, Walajah taluk Ranipet - 632401.
Land - 2.52 Acres & Building - 74,482 sq.ft. (Approx)

Terms and Conditions :
1. The e-auction will be conducted on "As is where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is basis" and "No recourse basis" only through e-auction.
2. The EMD amount shall be required to be deposited in the https://baanknet.com portal wallet.
3. The Bid shall be submitted through online mode only in the format prescribed.
4. The Last date of submission of EMD and filled in Tender Documents is **09.06.2026**.
5. For detailed terms and conditions of e-auction Sale, please refer the TENDER DOCUMENT/PROCESS MEMORANDUM available on https://baanknet.com or may be obtained from the Liquidator at saalim.liquidation@gmail.com. For e-auction process contact : support.baanknet@psballiance.com // Helpline: 8291220220.
6. The Liquidator has the right to add, modify or cancel any terms and conditions in the TENDER DOCUMENT/PROCESS MEMORANDUM and to extend or shorten any time limit specified in the said document. He has the right to accept or reject any of the bids without giving any reason whatsoever.
7. The payments made after 30 days shall attract interest at the rate of 12% p.a. and the sale shall be cancelled if the payment is not received within the period provided in the TENDER DOCUMENT/PROCESS MEMORANDUM.
8. The Land and Building under sale will be handed over UNDER AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION ONLY.
9. The Factory premises at Ranipet can be inspected from 13.05.2026 to 09.06.2026 between 10 am and 4 pm on prior appointment and request by email to saalim.liquidation@gmail.com.

Dr. S.R. SHRIRAAM SHEKHER
Liquidator
SAALIM SHOES PVT. LTD. (Under Liquidation)
saalim.liquidation@gmail.com
IBBI/IPA-003/IP-N000144/2017-2018/11598
11, Prayag Apartments, 8-15, Gandhi Nagar First Main Road, Adyar, Chennai-600 020
Place : Chennai-20
Date : 08.05.2026

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TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION
Poonamalee High Road, Chennai Metro Rail Limited
(CMRL)Admin Building, Koyambedu, Chennai-600 107.
Ph.No. (044) 26426773 Email id . : tncsc.tn@nic.in
CIN:U15137TN1972SGC006157

SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE
BS6/014883/2026 **Date: 09.05 .2026**
SHORT E-Tender No: BS6/014883/2026- TNCSC/26-27

Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation invites online electronic tender for the Purchase of **"60,000 Metric Tonnes of Tur dal (Split- Husked & Fatka)[Indigenous]/Tur Dal (Split Husked-Imported)/ Lentil locally known as Canadian Yellow Lentil (Split – Husked & Laired No.2) / Lentil locally known as Canadian Yellow Lentil (Whole – Husked & Laired No.2) for three months of July 2026, August 2026 and September 2026 as per AGMARK specifications"**

Complete Short e-tender document can be viewed and downloaded from **https:tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
The bidders have to participate only through online bidding with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III
Last Date and Time for Online Submission: **26.05.2026 up to 11.00 A.M.**
DIPR/1847/TENDER/2026 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

ARULMIGU MARIAMMAN TEMPLE,
SAMAYAPURAM, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI DISTRICT - 621 112.
Phone : 0431 -2670460, 9488275077 Email : symmariamman@gmail.com
Temple Website : www.samayapurammariamman.hrce.tn.gov.in
R.C.No. 3740/1435/C4 Dated. 07.05.2026
License to Collect Tonsured Hair & License to sell Prasadam for Fasli 1436 Samayapuram Arulmigu Mariamman Temple and its sub temples By E-Tender Advertisement

Sl.No.	Name of the license & Period	E - Deposit sum in Rupees
1.	License to Collect tonsured hair from 01.07.2026 to 30.06.2027	50,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Lakhs only)
2.	License to sell Prasadam from 01.07.2026 to 30.06.2027	25,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs only)

- Those who want to participate in the e-tender for the above two items, to be conducted in **https://tntenders.gov.in/** bidders can register themselves.
- Tenderer should quote tender amount with 18% of GST.
- Uploading of Qualification documents by bidder Date : **11.06.2026** Time : **01.00 PM**.
- E- Tender Date : **11.06.2026.** Time : **03.00 PM.**
- Conditions for this license uploaded in **https://samayapurammariamman.hrce.tn.gov.in** and **https://tntenders.gov.in/.** For details or clarifications – contact tntenders by dialing **0120-4001 002, 0120-4001 005, 0120-4493395, 044-25679739** and mail id : **support.etender@nic.in**
- Temple contact numbers: **0431 - 2670460, 9488275077**

M.Sooriyanarayanan
Joint Commissioner/ Executive officer
S.Gnanasekaran
Fit Person / Joint Commissioner
DIPR/ 1842 /TENDER/2026

Union Bank of India
Motorolla Branch, BagmaneTech Park, Bagmane Commerze Building, 1st Floor C. V. Raman Nagar, Near Krishnappa Garden Bangalore - 560 093.
Email ID: ubin0920657@unionbankofindia.bank

DEMAND NOTICE [Section 13(2)]

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of the **Union Bank of India, Motorola Branch** under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2)of Chapter-3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice/s on below mentioned date, calling upon the following borrower/s/ Guarantor/s /Legal heirs of borrowers to repay the dues within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Name of the Borrower/Applicant: 1) Mr.Sanjeevu Challam, Address:272 Main Road, Pothram, Ambripet Kathalapur, Karimnagar, Andhrapradesh-505306 2. Guarantor : i) **Mr.Bhanuprasad Thumma,** Address:Flat No-307, 3rd Floor, Pinnacle Apartment, K Channasandra, K R Puram, Bangalore, Karnataka-560036
Total Liability as on **06.05.2026 Rs.2,32,12,526.97** (Rupees Two Crore Thirty Two lakhs Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Six Paise Ninety Seven only) together with future interest and charges thereon.
Date of NPA: 06.05.2026 **Demand Notice Date:07.05.2026**
Account No.- Home Loan 206526650000022
Description of the Property : SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY:
All that piece and parcel of Property bearing old No.190,BBMP Word No.112 Khatha 190/A,PID No.72-13-190/A situated at Domlur Range, Bangalore and measuring East to West: 23 Feet 06 inches and North to South :65 Feet 06 inches in all measuring 1539 Sqft and bounded as follows: East by : House belonging to Sri. C. Ramaswamappa, West by : Property belonging to Sri.D.K Ravi Kumar, North by : House belonging to Sri.Venkatesh, South by : Road

Therefore, you hereby called upon in terms of the Section 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, (SARFAESI Act) to pay a sum of **Rs.2,32,12,526.97** (Rupees Two Crore Thirty Two lakhs Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Six Paise Ninety Seven only) together with future interest and charges at the contractual rate as per terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you and discharge your liabilities in full within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which, we shall be constrined to enforce the aforesaid securities by exercising any or all of the rights given under the said Act. As per Section 13(13) of the Act on receiptof the notice you are restrained/prevented from disposing of or dealing with the above securities without the consent of the Bank.Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Place : Bangalore
Date : 08.05.2026
Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India,

FOCUS FEATURE AN SMD INITIATIVE

Leadless Pacemaker: A New Era in Cardiac Pacing

Dr. M Sudhakar Rao,
Consultant Cardiologist
Manipal Hospital, Sarjapur Road, Bangalore

Bradycardia refers to heart rate lower than 60 beats per minute. However, pacemaker in bradycardia is indicated only when heart rate falls below 40 bpm (sinus bradycardia, heart blocks and sinus node dysfunction) and symptoms of giddiness and loss of consciousness are noted. A pacemaker is a small, battery-powered medical device designed to prevent the heart from beating too slowly (bradycardia). Leadless pacemakers are newer innovation implanted directly to right ventricle without any leads.

Leadless pacemaker is minimally invasive which eliminates the need for chest incisions, generator pockets, and insulated wires; have reduced complications; and substantially reduces the risks of infections associated with the pocket or leads and lead dislodgement or lead fractures. Leadless pacemakers offer improved safety and offers a safer alternative, particularly for specific complex patient groups.

Ideal Candidates for Lead-less Pacemakers includes very elderly individuals, individuals on haemodialysis, patients with active infections who require pacing, people on strong blood thinners (reduced bleeding risk at the implant site) and patients with severe tricuspid valve leakage/dysfunction or blocked subclavian veins (lack of access for conventional leads).

Complication rates in leadless pacemakers like device dislodgement and cardiac perforation are still possible but very low compared to traditional pacemakers. The traditional limitations of not being able to pace both the chambers have been overcome by newer devices where dual chamber leadless pacing can be done with only one device.

Disclaimer: This information is for informational purposes and does not constitute medical advice. Consult a healthcare professional for diagnosis and treatment.

Government of India
Ministry of Education
National Institutional Ranking Framework
nirf

NIRF is in the process of announcing India Rankings 2026, the eleventh edition of this annual exercise. We have received an overwhelming response from higher education institutions.

Data submitted by institutions in various disciplines like Engineering, Pharmacy, Management, Architecture and Planning, Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Law, Medical, Dental, Innovation, SDG Institutions, Skill University, Open University, State Public University and General Degree Colleges, including Overall rankings of the institutions, has been hosted by the participating institutions on their respective websites. The list of institutions that have submitted the data in India Rankings 2026 is available on our website www.nirfindia.org.

The comments/feedback of the stakeholders are invited through this advertisement from 11th May 2026 to 22nd May 2026 by 5 PM on the data submitted by the institutions. The comments/feedback are auto-transmitted through an email without disclosing the stakeholder's identity to the institution(s). All the Nodal Officers are requested to regularly check their emails to take necessary action on the comments/feedback received from various stakeholders.

Please note that the responsibility and accountability for the data rests entirely with the participating institutions.

Member Secretary
CBC 21315/11/0001/2627

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA-DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC –SHAR
SRIHARIKOTA-524124

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender Notice No.CMG/C/CON/268704_268705_268706_268707 **Date: 06/05/2026**
On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following works:

Sl. No.	Brief Name of work	Est.Value (Rs)
1	Augmentation of normal Power Distribution at Wind Profiler, SDSC SHAR (Civil Works).	16 Lakhs
2	Construction of New Bed for Disposal of Residual Propellant and unused AP at SMPC-U1, SDSC SHAR (Civil & Road works).	163 Lakhs
3	Augmentation of TDI processing facility at SMPC U2, SDSC SHAR	192 Lakhs
4	Sewage Collection Well at Pulicat Nagar Housing Colony Sullurupeta, SDSC SHAR	34 Lakhs

Last date for sale (Tender documents can be downloaded) up to **18/05/2026 14:30 hrs for Sl.no.1, 2, 3, 4**. For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro** .
Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/ SDSC SHAR

Your Guide to Spicy Living INDULGE Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Kittur police arrested an interstate thief who allegedly targeted passengers at the Kittur bus stand by distracting them and cutting open their bags to steal cash. The accused was apprehended in connection with multiple theft cases, and police recovered Rs 1 lakh in cash from his possession

AHEAD OF MONSOON, DEMAND FOR WELL DIGGERS ON THE RISE

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

WITH the onset of pre-monsoon showers and a dip in the groundwater table, there is a rise in demand for traditional well diggers again.

Well diggers say demand has shot up compared to previous years. It is not just their old customers who are contacting them for desilting and digging deeper wells, but also new customers who want wells dug.

Ramashankar, a well digger since 28 years, said in some places the water level is 20ft deep and in others, water is available at a depth of 10ft. "We assess the area before digging a fresh well. We see the soil quality, check for the nearest lake, drain, valley or any water source nearby. If the land is a dry patch and there are many concrete structures nearby, we have to dig deep for water, else it is not that difficult," he said. "Ten years earlier, our business had nearly dried up because borewells were being drilled. But now as the water level has dipped and many borewells have run dry, the demand for well diggers to recharge them has increased."

Explaining how they work, S Muniraju, another well digger, said they explain to people that once it starts to rain, water collection in wells increases and sufficient water is stored. People have started to understand the importance that water is guaranteed forever once wells are dug and maintained.

Experts say this is the need of the hour as concretization in Bengaluru is rising and the space for shoulder drains and lung spaces is shrinking. They also point out that demand is higher from independent houses, residential complexes and private commercial complexes, but none from government departments.

Vishwanath Srikantaiah, a water conservation expert who is working closely with the well diggers, said there is more awareness on improving the groundwater table among people. The idea of encouraging well diggers is two-fold, they help in recharging and maintaining dug wells. They also help deepen existing wells, and increase water storage capacity.

There are around 30,000 well diggers in and around Bengaluru, who are working to recharge wells and aquifers. So far, they have reportedly desilted and deepened around 30,000 wells in and around the city, of which 80 are in Cubbon Park, 300 in Lalbagh and other public parks. An official from the Groundwater Directorate, not wanting to be named, said, "If a well is dug in one place, people in surrounding areas benefit as the groundwater table improves. Rainwater harvesting is not being implemented by many government organisations, so creation of dedicated recharge wells is a big ask."

STRICT ACTION

Illegal tree felling: Khandre orders suspension of forest officials

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Shivamogga

FOREST, Ecology and Environment Minister **Eshwar B Khandre** has ordered the suspension of the range forest officer, deputy range forest officer and patrolling staff concerned in connection with the illegal felling of hundreds of acacia trees in the Soppinabetta area of compensatory forest land at Malavi village in Sagar taluk of the district

In written instructions issued to the principal chief conservator of forests, the minister referred to a state government circular dated February 11, 2010, and stated that under the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964, and in the Padma Shedathi and Mysore Revenue Appellate Authority case, the High Court, along with the opinion of the Law Department, had held that kaan, bena, betta, soppinabetta, jamma bane and jamma malai lands are forest lands.

He stated that only collection of leaves for personal use is permitted in such areas and that tree felling is not allowed. Despite this, hundreds of trees were allegedly felled illegally in the Soppinabetta and compensatory afforestation area, and the forest officials and staff concerned failed to prevent it, amounting to dereliction of duty. The minister therefore ordered their suspension.

Khandre also noted that the High Court had recently observed that land identified and used for compensatory afforestation under the Forest Conservation Act acquires the legal status of forest land.

JOY UNLEASHED

Children have a fun time at the 'Chinnara Santhe' held as part of the Chinnara Mela at Rangayana in Mysuru on Sunday | **UDAYASHANKAR S**

EXPRESS READ

Wrestler Kepanyar to represent India at Asian U-17 c'ship

BELAGAVI: Seventeen-year-old wrestler Hanmant Kepanyar from the traditional akhada (wrestling ground) of BK Kangrali village has brought pride to the region by earning selection to represent India in the upcoming Asian Under-17 Wrestling Championship. His achievement comes just days after winning a gold medal at the National Wrestling Championship held in Aurangabad, Maharashtra. Hanmant showcased exceptional talent and determination during the national-level tournament, defeating several strong opponents to clinch the gold medal. His impressive performance not only earned him national recognition but also secured his place in the Indian team. **ENS**

MANGO CORPN'S FRESH PROPOSAL FOR PULP-MAKING UNIT IN CHINTAMANI

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

AFTER facing a setback this year due to the conflict in West Asia, the Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation, which had stalled the idea of establishing a mango pulp-making unit in Chintamani, has placed a fresh proposal for the same before the state government.

Keeping in mind the next season and the financial cycle of 2027-28, the corporation is looking at various options to dispose of mango stocks at the two processing units in Chintamani and another in Ramanagara this season for want of a pulp-making unit and lack of demand from private processing units.

"Earlier this year, we placed a proposal before the state government to set up a 1000-tonne pulp and processing unit. But due to lack of support

from fruit-processing industries and their partners, the plan was put on hold. Now, a fresh proposal has been submitted to set up a processing unit for the next season. Fruit-processing industries are not keen on taking pulp or mangoes this year. They reason that they have around 100 tonnes of mangoes procured last year," a senior official from the corporation said. Last year, 110 tonnes of mangoes were sent for pulping and processing from the Chintamani packaging house. This year, it has procured 20 tonnes so far. The corporation has two processing units in Chintamani. Another packaging unit was recently set up in Ramanagara, where the focus is on coconuts.

Some quantities will be sent to the cold storage units in Tumakuru, Bengaluru Rural, Hosur and Koppal. The corporation is also studying the markets in other states so that mangoes could be sent there. Mango melas are also being held across the state to boost sales.

"We do not want farmers to dump mangoes on the streets this season. The West Asia conflict has impacted us drastically. Last year, around 1000 tonnes were exported. This year, around 100 tonnes have been exported so far. They were pre-booked orders," the official said.

SALES SURGE

Vendors see 24% customer growth, 33% revenue jump after Udhyam training

AKNISREE KARTHIK @ Bengaluru

UDHYAM Vyapaar, an initiative of Udhyam Learning Foundation, is helping street food vendors in Bengaluru increase their earnings through practical, on-ground business interventions and one-on-one mentoring.

Launched in 2025, the programme is currently working with more than 350 vendors across the city, focusing on understanding their day-to-day business challenges and co-creating solutions to improve customer experience, operational efficiency and revenue growth.

Interventions include improving cooking capacity, introducing better lighting and branding, adding seating and weather-protected setups, supporting menu enhancement, upgrading hygiene and presentation standards, and improving digital discoverability.

Vendors associated with the initiative have recorded a 24% rise in customer footfall and a 33% increase in revenue, said Krishnan Ranganathan, Director, Udhyam Vyapaar.

"India is home to nearly 5 million street food vendors, making them one of the country's largest segments of nano-entrepreneurship. In Bengaluru alone, an estimated 6–8 million people regularly consume

street food, while nearly 1.4–2 million depend on it as an affordable daily source of sustenance. Despite this scale, most vendors continue to operate with limited infrastructure, low visibility and little access to structured business support, which directly impacts how much they can serve and earn," he said.

The initiative primarily focuses on vendors earning below Rs 30,000 a month, many of whom are necessity-driven entrepreneurs.

Ranganathan said the challenge for most vendors is not a lack of demand but the inability to serve it efficiently due to operational constraints. This often results in slower service, lower customer retention and reduced daily earnings.

Renuka Devi, who runs a food stall near Konanakunte Cross, regularly attracted long queues but struggled to keep up with demand due to limited cooking capacity. Through Udhyam Vyapaar's intervention, her setup was upgraded from a double-burner stove to a three-burner stove along with other improvements, significantly improving cooking efficiency and reducing customer wait times.

"Earlier, I used to struggle during busy hours because I could not cook fast enough for the number of customers coming in. After the additional burner and other improvements, I can serve more people without delays. Customers are happier, and my daily income has improved noticeably," Renuka said.

Unlike traditional skilling programmes that often end with training delivery, Ranganathan said the initiative focuses on sustained handholding and measurable business outcomes. "The objective is to help vendors build stronger, more sustainable businesses through practical interventions tailored to their individual business context," he said.

As a non-profit initiative, the programme does not charge vendors for participation and aims to empower 5,000 vendors in Bengaluru over the next three years.

HDFC BANK LIMITED

Regd. Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013
Branch: #51, HDFC House, Kasturba Road, Bangalore 560 001
Tel:-080-41183000 CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618 Website: www.hdfcbank.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) **(HDFC)** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to **HDFC,** within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below in their respective names, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notices from the respective dates mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realization, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to **HDFC** by the said Borrower (s) respectively.

Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset/s.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative (s)	Total Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Security Interest has been created
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(f)
1	**Ms. Chakrala Revathi (Borrower)** **Ernst & Young LLP, Designation:** Associate Project Manager, **Department:** Development, EY LLP GDS Bagmani World, Technology Center Coral, Building 1, 5th Floor, Mahadevpura, Bengaluru 560048. **Also at:** 24, Venkadri Nilayam, Coconut Avenue, Jambu Savari Dinne Bus Stop, JP Nagar 8th Phase, Bengaluru 560083. **Also at:** No 7-199 NA, PV Road Kothapet, Near Fire Station, Andhra Pradesh, Srikalahasti 517644. **Also at:** Unit-P-147, Provident Woodfield, Kachanayakanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Tq, Bengaluru 560100.	**Loan A/c No. 652947084 Rs.55,29,443/- (Rupees Fifty Five Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Forty Three Only) as on 31.03.2026**	**27.04.2026** ..... **N.P.A. Date: (e) 05.04.2026**	**Schedule A:** The Sanctioned Project named as **"Provident Woodfield"** sanctioned by the Anekal Planning Authority vide approval no, 81/15-16 located on all that piece and parcel of non agricultural land converted for residential use in survey numbers 36/1, 36/2, 37/1, 2, 3, 4 & 5, 39/2, 40/1, 40/2A & 2B, 40/3, 40/4, 42/1, 43, 44/1, 44/2, 45, 48, 49, 50, 64, 65 collectively measuring approximately 95222.01 square meters (1024961.19 Sq. Feet) situated in Kachanayakanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban; bounded on the:**North by:** Road, **South by:** Hosahalli Village Boundary, **East by** : Sy. Nos. 63, 51, 39/1, 38, and 32, **West by :** Hosahalli Village Boundary. **Schedule B :** All that piece and parcel of Residential Plot bearing Plot No. **PWF-147** and having E-Khatha No. 150200103200822583 located in the Project Land described in Schedule A, totally measuring **194.13 square meters** and bounded on the **East** : Road, **West** : Plot No. 146, **North**:Pathway, **South**: Road. Together with proportionate undivided interest in the land on which the Clubhouse is situated and any construction thereon present and future.
2	**Miss. Sunita Nicholas (Borrower)** **Avaya India Private Limited** **Designation:** Manager-Services Sal **Department:** Software Service Sales **Employee No:** 20086436 Ground Floor & 1st Floor, Amr Tech Park-2, Hosur Main Road, Hongasandra, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru 560068 **Also at: Capgemini India Private Limited** **Designation:** Manager, **Department:** It **Employee No:** 58752, Prestige Shantiniketan, Sadaramangal Village, Whtiefield, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru 560048 **Also at: Arkadin Conferindia** **Designation:** Manager -Sales **Department:** Global Sales G 01 02, Ground Floor, Phonix Cresent, # 10 Rest House Road, Bengaluru 560001 **Also at: Hitachi Vantara India Private Limited** **Designation:** Account Manager **Department:** Accounts, **Employee No:** 49630 6th Floor C Wing Laxmi Tower, Bandra Kurla Complex Bandra, East Mumbai 400051 **Also at:** No.12, Maria Krupa Apts, Flat No-101, Davis Road, Richards Town, Bengaluru 560084 **Also at:** Flat No 202, 2nd Flr, Kvr Residency, Site No 85, BBMP Kh No 194/85, 1st Stage, 1st Block, HBR Layout, Hennur Bellary Road Layout, Bengaluru 560043.	**Loan A/c Nos. 1) 604399968 Rs.20,44,536/- 2) 605663789 Rs. 1,06,531/- 3) 616931458 Rs. 8,71,804/- 4) 627735681 Rs.12,09,394/- 5) 647715045 Rs.16,50,597/- Total Amount Rs.58,82,862/- (Rupees Fifty Eight Lakh Eighty Two Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Two Only) as on 31.01.2026**	**28.04.2026** ..... **N.P.A. Date: (e) 03.11.2025**	**"SCHEDULE "A":** All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site **No.85,** present BBMP Katha No.194/85, situated at 1st Stage, 1st Block, HBR Layout, (Hennur Bellary Road Layout), Bangalore, a Layout formed by the Bangalore Development Authority, presently under the jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, measuring East to West 15.25 meters and North to South 24 meters, totally measuring **366 Sq. Meters,** with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on the: **East by**:Site No.84; **West by:** Site No.86; **North by:** Site No.94; **South by:** Road; **SCHEDULE "B": 386 Sq.ft** undivided right, title and interest in the immovable property mentioned in Schedule "A" above. **SCHEDULE "C":** Flat bearing **No.202,** in the Second Floor, measuring about **1750 Sq.ft** super built up area, containing Three bed rooms, together with. RCC Roofing, Vitrified flooring along with **One covered car parking space,** including proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircase, etc., in the multistoried residential building known as **"KVR RESIDENCY"** constructed over Schedule "A" Property.
3	**Mr. Siraj Mohammed Abdul (Borrower)** **Data Ratings Intelligence Private Limited** **Designation:** Head of IT, **Department:** Information Tech, Elixir-I, Second Floor, No.73/A, Doddathogr Village, Shikaripal, Bengaluru 560100 **Mr. Siraj Mohammed Abdul(Borrower)** **Mrs. Asiya Parveen Shaikh (Co-Borrower)** **Both are residing at:** Villa No 33 Gran Carmen, Chikkabellandur, Hadosiddapura, Bangalore 560107. **Also at:** # 223 SJR Crystal Cove, S No Sy.No.307, Hulimangala Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru 560105.	**Loan A/c Nos. 1) 704563283 Rs.51,25,607/- 2) 698843983 Rs.77,505/- Total Amount Rs.1,29,112/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand One Hundred and Twelve Only) as on 31.03.2026**	**28.04.2026** ..... **N.P.A. Date: (e) 05.04.2026**	**SCHEDULE 'A':** All that Property bearing **Sy No. 307** (Old Sy No. 155/19), measuring 07 Acres 10 Guntas, (which includes the Civic Amenities, Parks and Open Spaces, areas for Road widening and Club House) situated at Hulimangala Village, JiganiHobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District and duly converted for non-agricultural residential purposes vide Orders bearing No.ALN(AG)SR 233/2007-08 dated 20/01/2009 by The Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore and bounded on **East by:** Property bearing Sy No. 155, **West by:** Property bearing Sy No. 155, **North by:** Road; and **South by:** Property bearing Sy No.278. **SCHEDULE 'B': 2010 Sq Feet** of allotted Undivided Share, Right, Title, Interest, and Ownership in the land in Schedule "A" Property situated at Hulimangala Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District. (the purchasers herein is allotted the Undivided Share after excluding area for the Club House). **SCHEDULE 'C':** All that piece and parcel of attached Row House bearing **No. 223** built on Schedule 'B' Property with Four (4) bedrooms and **Two Car Parks in LIVING STONE** of the Project known as **"CRYSTAL COVE by SJR PRIME CORP"** having super built up area of 3510 Sq. Feet and bounded by **East** : Row House No. 126, **West**: Drive Way/Open Space, **North** : Row House No. 221. **South :** Row House No. 225. The walls are built out of Solid Brick and Cement with RCC Roofing and Vitrified Flooring and it has electricity, water and sanitary connections. The wood used for door is Teak and windows of UPVC sliding Panels.
4	**Mr. Raj Nikhil** S/o Awadhesh Chaturwedi **(Borrower) Oracle India Private Limited** **Designation:** Senior Analyst, **Department:** OFS, Kalyani Magnum Level 2 Off, Bannerghatta Road J P Nagar, Bengaluru 560078. **Also at:** At SK Nagar, Motihari, Next to Sangeeta Topaz, East Champaran, Bihar 845401 **Also at:** Flat-2078, 7th Floor, Prestige Song of South, S No 14,16,18,19, & 20, 52/1, Yelenahalli Village, Begur, Bengaluru 560068 **Mrs. Pathar Rajni (Co-Borrower)** **Genisys Information Systems (India) Private Limited, Designation:** Consultant **Department:** SD, Tower C 11th Floor, Prestige Shanthinikethan, Sadarama Nagala, Hoodi, Whitefield, Bengaluru 560048. **Also at:** # 305, Ciroc Luxor, Hoodi Circle, Whitefield, Bengaluru 560048 **Also at:** Flat-2078, 7th Floor, Prestige Song of South, S No 14,16,18,19, & 20, 52/1, Yelenahalli Village, Begur, Bengaluru 560068.	**Loan A/c Nos. 1) 653120341 Rs.54,00,065/- 2) 656248064 Rs.76,588/- 3) 656935467 Rs.70,385/- Total Amount Rs.55,47,038/- (Rupees Fifty Five Lakh Forty Seven Thousand Thirty Eight Only) as on 31.03.2026**	**30.04.2026** ..... **N.P.A. Date: (e) 05.03.2026**	**SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY:** All the piece and parcel of non-agricultural residentially converted lands comprised in Sy. Nos. 14, 16, 18, 19 & 20 of Chandrashekarapura Village and Sy. No: 52/1 of Yelenahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, admeasuring 32 Acres 39, Guntas (less area 1,48,634 Sq. Ft., relinquished to the Bangalore Development Authority) and presently bearing Municipal No.67/Sy Nos. 52/1, 14, 16, 18, 19 and 20, Yelenahalli, Chandrashekarapura, Begur Sub-Division, Bommanahalli Region, Municipal Ward No. 192, Bangalore (in the records of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike) and bounded as under. **East by**:Road & Private Properties in Sy. No. 17 of Chandrashekarapura Village & Sy. No.52/2 of Yelenahalli Village, **West by:** Government Lake & Sy. No. 12 of Chandrashekarapura Village, **North by:** Land in Sy Nos. 13 & 15 of Chandrashekarapura Village and Sy. No. 53 of Yelenahalli Village; and **South by:** Road & Sy. No. 21 of Chandrashekarapura Village. **SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY: 513 Sq. Feet** of undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land in Schedule "A" Property. **SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY:** All that Residential Apartment bearing **No.2078,** situated on Level-7, Sixth Floor, Tower '2', Building No.1, in the Project viz., **'PRESTIGE SONG OF THE SOUTH',** constructed on Schedule 'A' Property and Apartment measuring **856 Sq. Feet of carpet area and 365 Sq. Feet** of proportionate share in common areas such as, lobbies, lifts, staircases and all other areas of common use and totally measuring **1221 Sq. Feet** of super built-up area, with right to use **One covered car parking space** in the Basement Floor and the apartment is bounded by: **East** :Open towards Open Space in Building No.1, Tower-2 of "Prestige Song of the South" **West**: Apartment No.2077 on Level-7, 6th Floor in Building No.1,Tower-2 of "Prestige Song of The South" **North** : Open towards Open Space in Building No.1, Tower-2 of **"Prestige Song of the South"; South**: Open towards Open Space in Building No.1, Tower-2 of "Prestige Song of the South" The walls are built out of Solid Brick and Cement with RCC Roofing and Vitrified/Ceramic Flooring and it has electricity, water and sanitary connections. The windows are of UPVC sliding Panels.

*with further interest cost, expenses, and charges as applicable incurred till the date of payment and / or realization. If the said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) fail to make payment to **HDFC Bank Limited** as aforesaid, then **HDFC Bank Limited** shall proceed against the above Secured Asset / Immovable Property under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset / Immovable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of **HDFC Bank Limited**. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 11.05.2026
Place: Bengaluru

For HDFC Bank Ltd.
Sd/- Authorized Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd. under SARFAESI Act, 2002

Andhra Pradesh recorded a decline in overall crime cases in 2024, according to the Crime in India 2024 report released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)

DEBT NO EXCUSE TO DELAY WELFARE: STALIN TO VIJAY

'Don't say there is no money; TN's debt levels within permissible limits'

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay gets a guard of honour at the Secretariat in Chennai on Sunday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

FORMER chief minister and DMK president **MK Stalin** on Sunday congratulated actor-turned-politician C Joseph Vijay on assuming office as chief minister, while cautioning him against citing the state's debt burden as a reason to delay welfare delivery. In a post on X, Stalin welcomed the announcements made by Vijay on his first day in office, but warned the CM against "starting right away by saying the government has no money". "It does have money. What is needed is the will to give it to the people and the ability to govern," Stalin said.

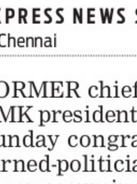
Referring to Vijay's speech at the swearing-in ceremony, in which he said the previous government had left behind a debt of ₹10 lakh crore and an empty treasury, Stalin defended his administration's fiscal record. He said the state's debt levels are within permissible limits and that the financial position was clearly laid out in the February budget. "Didn't you know that? It was only after that you made several promises to the people. Don't deceive the voters again and try to divert the issue," Stalin said.

Reminding Vijay of his own campaign promise that he would only make commitments that were "practically feasible", the DMK chief said the new CM would soon learn the nuances of fulfilling election promises, just as the DMK had during its five-year tenure.

Stating that the DMK government had rolled out numerous welfare schemes despite challenges such as the pandemic, floods and "neglect" from the union government, Stalin said he, along with the people who voted for Vijay, expect the state's growth to continue under the new administration.

MLC TA Sharavana congratulates Vijay

Bengaluru: MLC and JDS leader TA Sharavana congratulated Vijay on becoming the new Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, on Sunday. "Heartfelt congratulations to Vijay on becoming the new Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Wishing him great success in leading the state towards progress, prosperity and empowerment for all people. May his leadership bring positive change and inspire the next generation," he said. **ENS**



VIJAY RESIGNS AS TIRUCHY EAST MLA, RETAINS PERAMBUR

Chennai: Ahead of assuming office as CM, TVK president C Joseph Vijay on Sunday resigned as MLA from the Tiruchy East Assembly constituency. Senior leaders KA Sengottaiyan and P Venkataramanan submitted Vijay's resignation letter to Assembly Secretary K Srinivasan. Vijay had contested from both Perambur and Tiruchy East and emerged victorious in both seats. He has now decided to retain the Perambur seat and vacate Tiruchy East. According to sources, one of the frontrunners for the ensuing bypoll is Ku Pa Krishnan, who contested from the Lalgudi constituency in the recent election and lost to AIADMK candidate Leema Rose. The Assembly secretariat is expected to soon notify Tiruchy East as vacant, following which the Election Commission of India will announce a by-election for the constituency. With Vijay vacating one seat, the strength of the TVK in the 234-member Tamil Nadu Assembly has come down from to 107. **ENS**

No consensus in AIADMK

For the fourth consecutive day, consensus on key issues, including the election of the leader of AIADMK legislative party, remained elusive. Difference between the camps led by general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami and another group backing senior leaders C Ve Shanmugam and SP Velumani appeared to widen further, with prolonged rounds of consultations failing to produce a breakthrough. Though sources said there was a consensus among the MLAs to elect SP Velumani as the legislature party leader, the announcement was not made due to other issues. A functionary admitted that a section of the MLAs indeed wishe to extend support to TVK, but, again, consensus on the issue is eluding.

Udhayanidhi is next LoP

DMK on Sunday announced party's youth wing secretary Udhayanidhi Stalin as the leader of its legislature party, confirming his elevation as the Leader of Opposition in the Assembly. The role sets the stage for Udhaya vs Vijay political rivalry of the next five years. Although the decision was taken at a meeting of the party's MLA meeting, the announcement was made on Sunday evening. Former minister KN Nehru is the deputy leader of opposition. "Udhayanidhi, who retained the Chepauk-Triplicane constituency, was the only figure within the legislative group who could match Vijay's public profile and hold the opposition together." a MLA part of the meeting told *The New Indian Express*.

Country will grow only if states are developed, says PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

WHILE stating that he would stand with Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the sake of nation, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Sunday sought the blessings of the former for Telangana's development. In response, Modi said that the country would develop only if the states are developed and called upon Reddy to join with him in the development journey.

Addressing a meeting after inaugurating and laying foundation stone for various development works worth Rs 9,400 crore in Hyderabad on Sunday, Modi said that if Telangana is developed, the country too would develop.

He assured the state that the Union government would extend all necessary support for its development. Earlier, Reddy said that he would not speak about politics at the meeting and would focus only on development. However, he recalled that former prime minister Manmohan Singh supported Gujarat model during Modi's tenure as chief minister, and sought similar support and blessings for Telangana now.

Referring to this, Modi said, "Revanth ji said he would not speak about politics. I too will not speak about politics. In a non-political way, I want to say to Revanth ji that I am ready to give you as much as the Centre gave to Gujarat during the 10-year rule (of UPA). But, as per my information, the moment I do that, what you are getting would be reduced by half. You will not be able to reach where you want to reach (3 trillion dollar economy). Isliye accha hai ki mere se hi judo... (that's why, it is better that you join with me)."

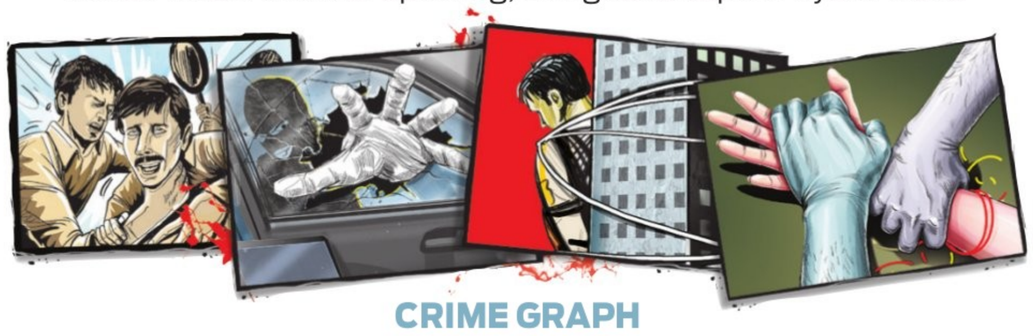
Recalling that the united Andhra Pradesh used to be allocated only Rs 1,000 crore in Railway Budget, Modi said : "Revanth ji are you listening? Now, Telangana alone got ₹ 5,500 crore in Railway Budget."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi plays 'dappu', a traditional, single-sided, circular folk percussion instrument, during a public meeting, in Hyderabad | EXPRESS

MODI VISITS RESIDENCES OF NAIDU AND PAWAN IN HYDERABAD

VIJAYAWADA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hyderabad visit on Sunday carried both political and personal significance as he met Andhra Pradesh's top leadership. Modi first called on Andhra Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan at the latter's residence to enquire about his health following recent surgery and wished him a speedy recovery. Later, he proceeded to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's residence, where he was accorded a warm welcome by Naidu, his son and HRD Minister Nara Lokesh, and other family members. The Prime Minister spent nearly an hour with the Naidu family, sharing tea and traditional Andhra delicacies. The family presented Modi with a specially woven Venkatagiri Jamdani portrait of Lord Venkateswara, symbolising Andhra Pradesh's spiritual and handloom heritage. The Prime Minister's interaction with Lokesh was marked by warmth, continuing a bond that has grown beyond politics into a familial association. Political circles noted that the extended meeting reflected the enduring Namo-Nara bond, which has evolved from alliance into personal camaraderie. **ENS**

While overall crime shows a dip, crimes against women, senior citizens show upswing; Bengaluru tops in cyber fraud



CRIME GRAPH

VIOLENT CASES SURGE

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

VIOLENT crimes in Karnataka almost doubled in 2024 compared to 2023, and the state capital, Bengaluru, ranked third among 19 metropolitan cities with 5,612 violent crime cases. Karnataka also ranked third in crimes against senior citizens.

Tech capital Bengaluru topped in cybercrime, and figures among top cities in crimes against women, and crimes against senior citizens. Meanwhile, statistics reveal that Karnataka recorded a decline in overall crime in 2024.

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) released the Crime in India 2024 statistics recently. The bureau classified rape, attempt to rape, foeticide, infanticide, dowry deaths, murder, culpable homicide, attempt to murder, attempt to commit culpable homicide, hurt, kidnapping and abduction, rioting, robbery, dacoity, and arson as violent crimes.

According to the report, Karnataka registered 1,98,331 cases under IPC/BNS and Special and Local Laws (SLL) in 2024, down by 7.4% from 2,14,234 cases in 2023. The state had recorded 1,80,742 cases in 2022. Bengaluru registered 5,755 violent crime cases in 2024, compared to 6,852 cases in 2023. The report also showed a marginal rise in crimes against SC/ST communities in the state, with 2,016 cases registered in 2024, compared to 1,923 in 2023.

Former DG&IGP ST Ramesh told *TNIE* that the rise in crimes against senior citizens was of serious concern, particularly in urban areas such as Bengaluru, where many elderly people live alone while their children work abroad or in different cities, making them vulnerable to crime. He added that the increase in registered cases also indicates improved reporting and registration of offences by police.

He stressed that effective 'community policing' efforts were essential to curb crimes against senior citizens. "When police become community-centric, senior citizens visit them regularly and interact with them, and the department takes measures to strengthen security through patrolling and surveillance. This acts as a deterrence to criminals," he said.

Ramesh noted that several offences involving senior citizens are often committed by domestic help, who are indispensable for elderly people living alone. He called for a robust system to verify the antecedents of domestic workers through an all-India criminal database, as most domestic help migrate from other states.

"Police should start maintaining photographs, phone numbers and identity details of domestic workers in a database so that tracking them becomes easier if they commit crimes, by creating a system to capture all info about domestic help of senior citizens living alone," he added.

Commenting on the state police's 'Mane Manege Police' initiative, Ramesh appreciated the effort and said it was another name for community policing. However, he pointed out that the shortage of police personnel remained a major challenge.

"This is not just Karnataka's problem but an issue across the country. As population and vehicle density increase, limited police manpower makes it difficult to implement such initiatives effectively," he said.

On thefts and housebreaking cases, Ramesh said both citizens and police share responsibility in preventing crime -- police must maintain records of known criminals, monitor their activities after release from jail, and strengthen surveillance. "At the same time, citizens should remain alert, keep their houses secure, lock doors and windows properly, and cooperate with the police. In case a dwelling is required to remain locked, local police should be kept informed," he said.

Speaking of crimes against women, Ramesh termed it an "eternal and deeply unfortunate problem" in the country. He said strict policing and case-by-case examination of rapes committed were necessary to prevent such offences. "Every case must be analysed separately. Police action has to be firm and swift, depending on the nature of the crime. Educational programmes on respecting women must be undertaken in schools and colleges, and involve parents as well, he said.

POLICING MEASURES

A serving senior IPS officer said police departments across the state as well as in Bengaluru have introduced several initiatives to curb atrocities against SC/ST communities by establishing DCRE police stations, and a Cyber Command Centre to tackle cybercrimes.

For women's safety, several initiatives have been launched under the Nirbhaya project. Hoysala police patrolling has been intensified, and online cab aggregators have been integrated with Namma 112.

The Rani Chennamma squads have also been visiting paying guest accommodations and colleges to create awareness among girls and women about laws and their rights, the officer said, adding that compared to 2023, crimes against women and cyber fraud have slightly declined in 2024. He added that police have intensified patrolling to curb violent crimes, while data also shows a decline in murder, kidnap and abduction cases.

CYBER CRIME: OF IMPERSONATION AND DIGITAL ARREST

In 2024, as many as 21,993 cybercrime cases were registered, of which 17,561 were reported in Bengaluru, with a chargesheet rate of 24.2 per cent. Of the 17,561 cases, 16,657 were related to online impersonation fraud, and largely involved scammers posing as police officers, government officials, bank executives, customer care representatives, or relatives to cheat victims into transferring money. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime 2) Raja Imam Kasim P told TNIE that 2024 saw the emergence of several new cyber offences. However, cybercrime cases have now declined, except for investment frauds and digital arrest scams.

He said police had launched several public awareness programmes to educate citizens about cyber fraud. "When it comes to Bengaluru, police have meticulously registered every case, and the city has exclusive police stations dedicated to cybercrime," he said.

Asked about conviction rate, he said unlike conventional crimes, cyber offences occur on digital platforms, where money is transferred from one account to multiple accounts across different locations. He added that such crimes also involve mule accounts, which hamper investigations. Further, mule account holders and operators often function from different states, making coordination difficult during investigations. He added that coordination committees have now been formed with other states to facilitate investigation. The 1930 cybercrime helpline portal, which was earlier handled manually, has now been unified, helping authorities quickly block accounts and immediately alert police once a complaint is filed on the portal. Banks have been advised to block suspicious accounts.

BIG PICTURE

HOW K'TAKA FARES

Violent Crimes

Year	K'taka	B'luru
2022	17,091	2,769
2023	17,902	3,528
2024	31,223	5,612

TOP 3 CITIES CASES

Crimes Against Senior Citizens

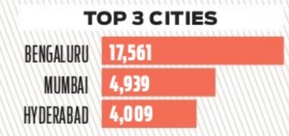
Year	K'taka	B'luru
2022	1,583	458
2023	1,840	649
2024	4,247	660

TOP 3 CITIES CASES

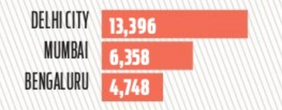
Cyber Crimes

Year	K'TAKA	B'LURU
2022	12,556	9,940
2023	21,889	17,631
2024	21,993	17,561

TOP 3 CITIES



TOP 3 CITIES IN CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN



Immigration rules, inability to get jobs abroad signals reverse migration of Kerala students

ANU KURUVILLA @Kochi

IN the coming years, Kerala will be facing a serious situation with tens or thousands of students who have gone abroad to study, with immigration in mind, forced to return home due to drastic changes in the immigration rules being brought in by the job seekers' dream countries, like the UK, Canada, Australia and other European countries.

To highlight the seriousness of the issue, the Catholic Congress Global Youth Council (CCGYC) recently brought out a paper pointing out that, as per migration experts, approximately 30,000 Malayali students would return home after failing to secure jobs. A Kerala Migration Survey report released in 2023 had reported that there are 2.5 lakh students from Kerala who have gone abroad.

"These are just the numbers till 2023," said Leon Jose Vithayathil, who prepared the CCGYC report. As per information provided by the Bureau of Immigration (BoI), the number of Indians who disclosed their purpose of visit as study/education while going abroad in 2024 was 7,59,064. A significant number of students in this group hail from Kerala. According to Leon, who is based in the UK, the situation in the UK has already turned difficult for the Indian students. "These students mostly hail from middle-class families and arrive here after taking huge sums, anywhere between Rs 15 lakh to Rs 45 lakh, as loans. But this amount only covers the tuition fees. So, from where do they get the money to cover living expenses like accommodation and food? They are forced to take up jobs that are considered menial in our country," said Leon.

He pointed out that many of these students end up taking the illegal route to outsmart the rules set by the system. "Out of the total number of students arriving in these countries, only around 60% might get accommodation on the university campus.

EDITORIAL

You can never cross the ocean until you have the courage to lose sight of the shore — Christopher Columbus

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

TAMIL NADU TURNS THE PAGE AS VIJAY ASSUMES CHARGE

As Tamil Nadu welcomes a new government under actor-turned-politician C Joseph Vijay, the state stands on the threshold of a new political era. The duopoly of the Dravidian majors, which ruled the state continuously for six decades, has ended unceremoniously. Notably, after several decades, a coalition government is taking charge in the state.

Vijay's journey to power was marked by twists and turns reminiscent of a Kollywood blockbuster. His fledgling TVK fell short of the halfway mark in the Assembly, and despite a clear public mandate against the established Dravidian parties, he initially struggled to cobble together support. He eventually secured backing—largely from the DMK-led alliance—though with only a slender majority. Whether TVK can retain that support and run the administration effectively remains to be seen. However, with evidence of a surge in grassroots support for Vijay across the state after the polls, the two major opposition parties are unlikely to pull the plug anytime soon. Instead, they may prefer to wait and see whether the government falters under mounting pressure.

Right after taking charge, Vijay got down to business. He set up a women's protection force to curb crimes against women and anti-drug squads in every district. He also sought to ease the burden on electricity consumers by making the first 200 units free. His promise of a clean and transparent government may have sounded like a typical mass-hero dialogue from a Tamil film, but it has nevertheless raised expectations across the state. Vijay said his government would focus on education, road safety and drinking water facilities—priorities that have resonated with many people. Underlining his commitment to a secular, anti-BJP stance, he also assured minorities that he would always stand by them.

Vijay's statement that the DMK had left behind a debt burden of around ₹10 lakh crore, coupled with his promise to release a white paper on the state's finances, may help him delay the implementation of his new social welfare measures. According to *TNIE*'s estimates, the annual cost of the planned welfare expansion could reach nearly ₹1 lakh crore—almost half of Tamil Nadu's own tax revenues last year. Unless the government beefs up its tax kitty and identifies new income sources, it may struggle to invest adequately in civic and road infrastructure. That, too, should remain a priority.

IPL'S DISCIPLINE ISSUES PROMPT BCCI WARNING

EVEN as the summer carnival—the Indian Premier League—nears its business end, the focus has shifted to a strongly worded advisory issued last week by the Indian cricket board (BCCI) to the league's 10 franchises. Initialled by secretary Devajit Saikia, the document highlights several red lines regarding player behaviour and the conduct of franchise officials going forward.

It raises serious concerns about unauthorised individuals entering hotel premises and player rooms without the necessary permission or accreditation. Already this season, a franchise has come under scrutiny twice —for a team official using a mobile phone in the dugout, and a player vaping in the dressing room. There are also concerns about players failing to adhere to anti-corruption advisories and recording content for their personal social media channels during training sessions and after matches. The BCCI has even warned teams and players about the risk of 'honey-trapping'—language the board has rarely used in an official communication.

While there is no official report detailing specific incidents, the BCCI's decision to issue such a notice suggests the league has been grappling with these issues behind the scenes. It is hardly an encouraging sign for a tournament that has already witnessed a noticeable dip in viewership and features several young cricketers suddenly exposed to immense wealth and attention. In the past, both the BCCI and the IPL have dealt with controversies involving spot-fixing and late-night parties, incidents that resulted in suspensions for players and two franchises being banned for two years. Now, the anti-corruption unit will need to be even more vigilant, especially with influencers gaining increasing access to playing arenas, team buses and behind-the-scenes spaces to create social media content for franchises and players alike.

There have been multiple reports of players disregarding guidelines by filming reels in prohibited zones, staying out late at night with 'friends' without authorisation and allowing unauthorised guests into hotel rooms. All of this has reportedly been flagged by the anti-corruption unit, prompting the latest crackdown. The onus is now on both the BCCI and franchises to enforce these protocols and ensure that players—regardless of stature or celebrity—follow rules. Preserving the decorum and sanctity of the world's biggest cricket league is essential. And the expectation is that the BCCI will come down hard on anyone who fails to comply.

QUICK TAKE

MACHINE MORALS

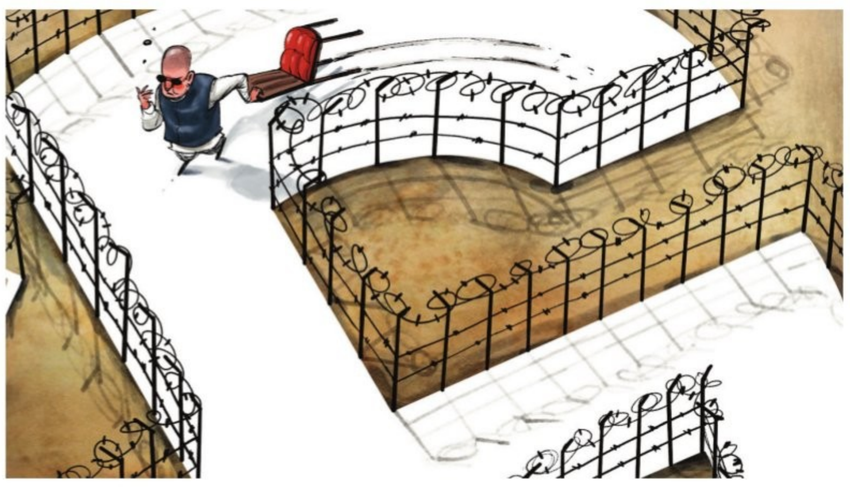
LAST month, Anthropic invited religious leaders and theologians to its San Francisco headquarters to discuss what values should shape Claude, its chatbot. Company staff asked for advice on how to guide the chatbot's moral and spiritual development for answering ethical questions from users. The meeting showed how far AI has moved beyond coding and computing. Tech companies are now wrestling with issues philosophers and religions have debated for centuries. Pope Leo XIV has urged developers to cultivate "moral discernment", while Christian groups are testing chatbots for "theological reliability". But if religions and cultures all have different ideas of morality, whose beliefs should an AI system follow, and who gets to decide that?

From Tamil Nadu and Kerala to Bengal and Assam, elections in India's border states show how regional identities and frontier politics are reshaping democracy and national politics

BORDERLANDS AND THE BALLOT BOX

MAKARAND R PARANJAPE
Author and commentator

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE



SOURAV ROY

ELECTION verdicts in four important states, two in the east and two in the south, have proved yet again that Indian democracy is resilient and robust. Despite the usual complaints, alleged rigging, SIR deletions, and bad losers the Indian voter has emerged as the real hero and Indian democracy the ultimate beneficiary.

Just think of some of the unexpected twists and turns. Who would have expected a complete outsider like film star C Joseph Vijay to sweep Tamil Nadu so decisively? Even when he hardly campaigned or held rallies, let alone spoke to the press. Totally unknown Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) candidates won handsomely. On the other hand, even the sitting chief minister and the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) supremo M K Stalin lost.

In West Bengal, the ousting of Mamata Banerjee and the rout of her Trinamool Congress fortress signals a tectonic shift. And the turnout? A stupendous almost 93 percent. Kerala once again demonstrated its customary pivot from the Communist Party of India (Marxist)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) to the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF). Assam rewarded Himanta Biswa Sarma's assertive Hindutva politics with a thumping return.

But there is something most commentators have missed. All four of these elections have been in border states. It is the peculiar politics of the borderlands, along with their special and specific contingencies, that make these results so significant. It is this angle that I wish to explore, albeit in a snapshot manner. And also offer some gratuitous advice to the governments in waiting, as any public intellectual worth their salt ought to.

In Kerala, voters opted for stability, choosing the tried-and-tested switch from LDF to UDF. Tired of one, flip to the other. Keep Hindutva out. Never the same game south of the Vindhyas, the BJP must wait it out. In Tamil Nadu, too. Instead of bickering over who would be CM, the Congress has a huge opportunity to reinvent itself. Deliver decent governance, establish good relations with the Centre, refrain from milking, or should we say bilking, the state for party needs elsewhere. Come on, Congress; get your act together. Show the rest of India what you can do in 'God's own country'.

Tamil Nadu is a border state, too. It is also the hotbed of Dravidian politics. Will Vijay break with this past or continue it? Will he steer a middle course, watering down DMK's brand of Dravidian anti-Sanatanism? Will he be more centrist instead of anti-Hindi, anti-North Indian or even anti-Hindu?

What about the state's vital political links with Sri Lankan Tamils? We have already lost former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi to extra-national extremist ties. Tamil Nadu is also deeply connected to the large Tamil diaspora in Southeast Asia. Such ties, in the past, have directly or indirectly fuelled Dravidianism; now Vijay can use them to promote development and commerce.

Vijay, of course, is Christian. The first one to be Tamil Nadu's CM. A portrait supposedly of Jesus Christ was flashed in one of his early campaign roadshows. Will the powerful church, not to mention foreign lobbies, influence him and his policies? Or will he be inclusive and faith-agnostic? And what about Tamil Nadu's traditional social justice agenda? Translated in simple terms, this is another word for caste and reservation politics, even anti-Brahminism.

Isn't it time Tamil Nadu moved away from this toxic legacy? The answer is a decisive 'Yes'. If Vijay wants to showcase himself and TVK as a viable alternative to both the Dravidian majors and the BJP's Hindi-Hindutva agenda, he should demonstrate a genuine, I dare say, dharmic secularism. Along with carrying on, even improving on the governance front and the business-friendly policies of his predecessors.

Vijay's opportunities are also unprecedented. If he keeps his charisma intact and builds a strong, supportive grassroots organisation, he might succeed as spectacularly as he has won. With a team of competent advisors and top-notch administrators, of course. Tamil Nadu can be a beacon not only of heritage and culture, but of talent and technology in the new South.

Now let's move east. Both Assam and West Bengal are border states too, with sizeable and growing Muslim populations. In West Bengal, the ouster of Sheikh Hasina in Bangladesh and its aftermath helped hugely in consolidating Hindu voters for the first time. Islamic radicalism, accompanied by brutal attacks on Hindus in the Muhammad Yunus-led interim regime, raised alarm bells on our side of the border. Exacerbated, of course, by the Babri-masjid rhetoric of Muslim politicians in districts such as Murshidabad.

Now, as the BJP has been boasting, Hindutva has returned to the land of its birth. The land, not only of Chandranath Basu who coined the term, but also of Syama Prasad Mookerjee, the former president of the Hindu Mahasabha and of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh. As well as, another hero of Bengal, Subhas Chandra Bose. And of savants and visionaries such as Swami Vivekananda and Sri Aurobindo.

The BJP's choice of the birthday of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore for the swearing-in, complete with the prime minister, home minister, leading cabinet ministers and 20 CMs on display, makes for a historic event. Tagore, the undisputed and beyond controversial symbol and spirit of modern Bengal, underscores the tremendous cultural, even civilisational opportunity that Suvendu Adhikari's stint as chief minister affords. Bengal can once again join the mainstream of Indian politics and intellectual life, even lead it as it did for over a hundred years.

But a word of advice: no doubt, *rangdhanush* is once again Ramdhanush in Bengal, but Adhikari would do well to make development, rather than ideology, the driver of change. Bengal must once again become an industrial and competitive business hub. The Bhadraloks will come back of their own accord.

Lastly, Assam, led by one of India's most astute younger leaders, the 'dabang' Himanta Biswa Sarma. A political mastermind, he knows when and how to game vote-bank politics. Under his 'tough-guy' image is a well-read, smart politician who enjoys the support of both the prime minister and home minister. Third time lucky? No, third time tested and proved.

Critics will frame these outcomes through partisan or ideological prisms. Yet the deeper truth lies in the triumph of Indian democracy in an era of great global and regional uncertainty. Subversive migration, transnational identities and geopolitical flux notwithstanding, we are a republic continually recalibrating, with our border great states ensuring the centre holds.

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @MakrandParanspe)

THE MESSENGER SAGE

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

GIVEN the utterly vile news of post-poll violence, it's as though no laws, no notions of morality or self-control were ever discussed or instituted in the many millenniums gone by. Human nature doesn't seem to have changed from BCE or early CE, and instant communication only serves to bring more of our misdeeds to light.

Then the thought steals in like the scent of summer jasmine that this month saw festivals relating to two vital change agents, one historical and one legendary: the Buddha and Devrishi Narada Muni. Narada Muni's *janmotsav* usually comes just after Buddha Purnima. This year it was last week, on Sunday, May 3. It's an interesting calendar quirk that the Buddha, the nobly born renunciate, dances for eternity with the first-known journalist of Indic culture.

It took me a while to appreciate this interesting fact: Narada Muni is actually a 'journalist' in the sense of someone who goes everywhere, meets everyone, observes everything and purveys information. Moreover, he is on everyone's A-list of guests across the three worlds and is invited to every important event. His presence adds lustre to each gathering.

The thought follows that perhaps it's hard for those who communicate 'good' and 'bad' as simple binaries to understand the special place that he holds in the scheme of things. What matters is that we modern Indians could try to understand Narada Muni's intriguing role as a cultural messenger, simply because it could help us evaluate the importance of good intentions in communication today.

The fact is that though we laugh about Narada Muni being a meddler, we also know that he stirs things up not out of personal malice but to move matters along. He plays a key role in arranging the wedding of weddings—that of Lord Shiva to Parvati Devi—actively serving as both matchmaker and catalyst in the story.

But does he always succeed? He seems to fail resoundingly in the case of Savitri when he tells her that Satyavan is doomed. It only makes the willful princess more determined to subvert the natural laws. I used to think that Savitri's 'victory' was not a victory at all but a piece of human trickery, vanity and greed; a cautionary tale. How Narada Muni might curl his lip at that.

But because it is so sophisticated of a story, the true meaning flies over our heads, and we take the story at its flat 'modern' and 'Left-liberal' interpretation, unaware of how she commands Yamaraja's respect by her politeness and intelligence, and so gets her way. She thus becomes an example of good intentions backed by courage and determination.

Narada Muni's most successful 'press campaign' is his indoctrination of Prahlad in Vishnu-*bhakti*. He drops in on Prahlad's mother when she is expecting her child, and tells her many tales praising Mahavishnu's beauty, glory and greatness. The baby in the womb hears everything and is born a staunch Vishnu-*bhakt*. He defies his tyrannical father, Hiranyakashipu, even submitting to several attempts by his father to kill him. Eventually, this triggers the descent of Mahavishnu into his fourth avatar, Narasimha, the man-lion, to finish off the tyrant and rescue the world from his oppression.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Narada Muni, a journalist in the sense of one who goes everywhere, meets everyone, observes everything and purveys information, can be credited for many contributions in Indic culture. Importantly, he carried the message of civil disobedience, the foundation stone of Indian identity

Moreover, it's interesting that the legend of Prahlad's peaceful non-cooperation and civil disobedience apparently inspired real-life rebellions, such as those of Meera Bai in the 16th century. There is a wonderful story that Meera had a letter smuggled out from captivity in Chittor to Tulsidas in Varanasi, asking what she should do since her in-laws forbade her from worshipping Sri Krishna—without whom she could not exist. Tulsi's reply was revolutionary advice for a gently-bred woman, just thirty-one years old, who had never faced the outside world alone. He told her to disown her family just like Prahlad did. And Meera walked out, never to return. So, it would not be incorrect to surmise that 20th-century freedom fighters already had the weapon of civil disobedience in their playbook from their own culture. It was embedded in their psyche as an effective means of fighting back against tyranny, and they merely needed the broader unity of purpose and mass mobilisation to activate it.

Nor can we forget that it was Narada Muni who came across little Dhruva in the forest and taught the heartbroken child the mahamantra '*Om Namo Bhagavate Vasudevaya*' to meditate on and attain the grace of Mahavishnu, as Dhruva ardently wished. And with what a glorious result.

Well before that, in the earliest epoch, Narada Muni brought Princess Devahuti together with Kardama Rishi, celebrated as among the early ancestors of mankind. Their son, Kapila Rishi, was none other than Lord Narayana himself, who took this form to gratify Kardama's wish. He propounded the Samkhya philosophy, giving us an important perspective on and rationale for our lives as human beings.

Let us also remember and be grateful to Narada Muni for yet another important development in our theology and culture. Rishi Valmiki asked Narada if a perfect, virtuous man still existed on Earth. Narada Muni described Sri Rama, the son of Dasharatha, as that ideal man. This narration inspired Valmiki to compose the *Ramayana* in poetic verses after Lord Brahma prompted him to record the tale. And thereby, we got the immortal story of Rama, the *neev patthar* or foundation stone of so much of Indian identity, and well beyond. Fabulously, it was Narada Muni again who inspired Vyasa to compose the holy *Srimad Bhagavatam*. Our 'first journalist' seems to have been the ultimate influencer, and well worth celebrating.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

India's resolve

Ref: *Need to recognise the long shadow beyond Sindoor* (May 10). The Pahalgam incident, truly a massacre of the *sindoor*, rightfully prompted the war against terrorism. India's nemeses witnessed a first-hand demonstration of its military empowerment, even though much of the operation's success can be attributed to national resolve.
Muhammed Nishal K K, Kozhikode

Bengal's glory

Ref: *Saffron Bengal* (May 10). The writer has very vividly put before the readers the visions of the state's icons and how petty politicking in recent history deprived its citizens. Bengal now demands a shift from despair to development. Besides, the new government should go hard on law and order, infiltration, and push cultural and nationalist policies.
Raghu Joshi, Davangere

Change aftertaste

Ref: *Marketing myths* (May 10). "The old order changeth, yielding place to new". Although in an era dominated by social media, the change seems distinct and nothing remains sacrosanct. While taste gets a ready recognition as a brand, secondary players trying to cash in on its popularity leaves behind a sour aftertaste.
Sachidananda Satpathy, Sambalpur

CM consensus

Ref: *CM call later* (May 10).
Kerala's public brought back the UDF government with a whopping mandate. They surely didn't vote for a farcical exercise to begin with. Democracy, if not trampled upon, is certainly put to ridicule.
Sanath Kumar T S, Thrissur

Kick-off whistle

Ref: *Unstoppable* (May 10).
CM Vijay's speech was promising and confident enough to fulfill all his election promises, that too within a short period of time. While he definitely needs some time to assess debts, the confidence in his governance remains intact provided his alliance partners do not pressurise him.
Narayanan Mahadevan, Chennai

Dragging war

Ref: *Gulf truce wobbles* (May 10). Donald Trump should know that war and peace cannot coexist and must get pro-active to stop the war. On the other hand, Iran should keep the Hormuz Strait open and not strangle the key transportation artery.
T M Uday Shankar, Hyderabad

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Shivraj Singh Chouhan @ChouhanShivraj
Today, in Bhairunda of Sehore, along with MP CM Mohan Yadav, I inaugurated the state-level programme of the PM Gram Sadak Yojana-IV and the PM-JANMAN scheme.

Ashok Gehlot @ashokgehlot51
Happy Mother's Day. A mother's affection is the living embodiment of God. In their blessings lies the strength that gives us the courage and support to rise.

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
Only secular governments represent true democracy, which is based on the principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity for all citizens.

Naval top deck rejigged, Vice Chief moved to west

Andamans commander Ajay Kochhar to be new vice Naval chief

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

VICE Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, currently serving as Vice Chief of the Navy, is set to take over as the next Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command in Mumbai, while Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar, now serving as Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command, is set to succeed him as Vice Chief, sources in the Navy privy to the matter confirmed.

The appointments are expected to be formalised shortly following Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan's elevation as the next Chief of the Navy.

Vice Adm Swaminathan, who has headed the Mumbai-based Western Naval Command since July last year, will assume charge as Navy chief on May 31 upon the retirement of Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi.

The top-level reshuffle comes at a time when the Navy is sharpening operational focus in the Indian Ocean region amid growing Chinese naval deployments, increasing Pakistan-China maritime cooperation and expanding emphasis on long-range maritime strike capability, surveillance and carrier battle group operations.

Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan

Headquartered in Mumbai, the Western Naval Command is the Navy's principal operational and warfighting command responsible for the Arabian Sea and India's Pakistan-facing maritime front. The command also safeguards critical sea lanes, offshore infrastructure and energy routes through which a major share of India's trade and hydrocarbon imports move. Commissioned on January 1, 1988, Vice Adm Vatsayan is a specialist in gunnery and missile systems and has extensive operational as well as staff experience.

Over the course of his career, he has commanded missile vessels, corvettes and INS Sahyadri, the Shivalik-class stealth frigate inducted in 2011.

At flag rank, Vice Adm Vatsayan commanded the Eastern Fleet and also held senior appointments at the Integrated Defence Staff dealing with operations, force structuring, policy planning and capability development before taking over as vice chief in August last year. Vice Adm Kochhar, who is to take over as Vice Chief, is currently serving as Commander-in-Chief of the tri-service Andaman and Nicobar Command.

It may be noted that the Andaman and Nicobar Command has acquired growing strategic salience because of its proximity to the Malacca Strait, through which a substantial portion of Chinese trade and energy traffic passes.

Change at critical time

Commissioned into the Navy on July 1, 1988, he is a specialist in gunnery and missile warfare and has commanded several frontline warships, including aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya and stealth frigate INS Trikand. The reshuffle comes at a time when the Navy is sharpening operational focus in the Indian Ocean region amid growing Chinese naval deployments.

Young women must take lead in constructive work of ABVP, says Hosabale

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale on Sunday urged young women to actively participate in its student wing, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP).

Quoting ABVP ideologue Yashwantrao Kelkar, he said that Kelkar had strongly advocated the full-time involvement of female students and constructive work in student organisations. Speaking at the "Priye Kelkar Ji" special recitation programme, organised by the ABVP's Delhi unit at the Kedarnath Sahni Auditorium to commemorate Kelkar's birth centenary year, Hosabale said Kelkar developed the "philosophy of a student movement" and explained the ideological foundation and thought process that should guide such an organisation.

"Overall, the Vidyarthi Parishad functions through three dimensions—constructive work, representative work and agitational work," Hosabale said. Kelkar, regarded as one of the principal architects of the ABVP, is credited with shaping the organisation's ideological framework and emphasizing constructive social work alongside student activism.

Hosabable pointed out that Kelkar never imposed his views on others. "He never believed in telling people to do something simply because he had said so. Instead, he presented his ideas as a suggestion and, in a persuasive manner, built consensus and imbibed the spirit of teamwork throughout his life," Hosabale asserted. He further said that Kelkar strongly encouraged women's participation and constructive work in student organisations. "In the broader context of national reconstruction, these ideas were meant to build an ideal student movement in the field of education," he said.

The Vidyarthi Parishad functions through three dimensions—constructive work, representative work and agitational work

Dattatreya Hosabale

RSS leader invokes Kelkar

Quoting ABVP ideologue Yashwantrao Kelkar, he said that Kelkar had strongly advocated the full-time involvement of female students and constructive work in student organisations.

INSIDER TRACK

Race for IB director intensifies

With Intelligence Bureau Director Tapan Deka's tenure ending on June 30, the race for the country's top intelligence post has intensified. Senior Himachal Pradesh cadre IPS officer Rithwik Rudra is seen as the leading contender. Government sources said Deka, who has headed the IB since 2022 and received two consecutive extensions, is unlikely to get another. Rudra is currently Special Director, IB. Sources also said the Modi government is known for unexpected decisions and another Special Director in the IB, Sunita Kakran, could also be entrusted with the responsibility. Discussions within government circles are continuing over the appointment in Delhi.

Gadkari upset over project delays

Senior officials of MoRTH recently faced sharp criticism from Minister Nitin Gadkari during a review meeting on the 210-km Delhi-Dehradun Expressway project. Gadkari was particularly unhappy over the lack of adequate wayside amenities along the newly developed corridor. Officials found that poor coordination between the two implementing agencies had slowed progress on the facilities. Under the current policy, the NHAI is expected to develop amenities every 30 to 50 kilometres on existing and upcoming highways and expressways. These facilities include fuel stations, electric charging points, toilets, food courts, retail shops and ATMs for highway users. Sources said at least 12 wayside amenities are planned along the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway corridor.

Decision on CBI chief likely soon

The government is expected to appoint a new CBI Director soon, with incumbent chief Praveen Sood completing his tenure on May 24, 2026. Sources said the high-powered selection committee, headed by the prime minister, is likely to meet on May 12 to finalise the appointment. Names of officers under discussion include Parag Jain, a 1989-batch Punjab cadre IPS officer currently chief of R&AW; Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor, a 1990-batch Haryana cadre IPS officer serving as DG, ITBP; and GP Singh, a 1991-batch Assam-Meghalaya cadre IPS officer heading the CRPF.

Jaishankar's Lara moment

Cricket remains an enduring passion for External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. He had a fanboy moment of his own during a recent visit to Port of Spain, when he came face-to-face with batting legend Brian Lara. Spotting Lara, Jaishankar could barely hide his delight. "When I was coming here, I was told we could see your house from this ministry. I said wow, that's a great honour. But I didn't realise the honour would be even greater, of seeing you in person," he gushed. The minister later posted a photograph with Lara, captioning it simply: "With the one and only @BrianLara." Jaishankar has several other cricketing favourites -- MS Dhoni, Virender Sehwag and England pace veteran James Anderson.

EC pleased with high turnout

The ECI is satisfied with the high voter turnout in the recent assembly elections. West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu and Kerala recorded their highest-ever voter participation. Officials viewed the strong participation figures as an endorsement of the electoral process and management efforts across states. A senior EC official panel said Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar had repeatedly told officials from the beginning that all votes cast in an election are "our votes", the turnout "is ours", while political parties receive only their respective shares from the total turnout. Kumar reportedly told officials during an internal interaction that "all 93 per cent of voters in West Bengal were with us".

Nod to ₹72,000 cr Nicobar project not based on proper reports, says Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

CONGRESS leader Jairam Ramesh on Sunday intensified his attack on the Centre over the ₹72,000 crore worth Great Nicobar Island Development Project, alleging that the environmental studies used to grant clearances for the mega infrastructure venture were "grossly inadequate" and reduced the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process to a "mockery".

In a fresh letter to Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, the Congress leader questioned the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's assertion that the ecological impacts of the project were being "effectively managed".

He also alleged that the clearances were based on hurried assessments conducted over a few days and weeks in one of India's most ecologically sensitive island regions.

The Congress MP argued that the government's own regulations require detailed and multi-season environmental studies for projects of this scale, particularly in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Citing a November 3, 2009, office memorandum issued by the ministry, Ramesh said port projects in the islands must undergo a "comprehensive environmental impact assessment, including physical and mathematical modelling and ground verification".

He maintained that a proper baseline assessment should cover at least three seasons to accurately capture ecological variations and biodiversity patterns. Ramesh said he was unable to find the "comprehensive and robust EIA studies" repeatedly referred to in the ministry's Frequently Asked Questions issued on May 1. Instead, he pointed to the Final EIA report submitted in March 2022, which, according to him, showed that baseline environmental studies were conducted only during the winter season between December 2020 and February 2021.

The MP argued that a three-month, single-season study was insufficient to assess the consequences of such a project.

Adopt zero-casualty strategy: Shah to disaster relief teams

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

CHAIRING a meeting to assess preparedness for floods, heat waves and other climate-related disasters, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday told officials to expand plans for developing early warning systems for glacial and high-risk lakes in the Himalayan region.

Calling for implementing PM Narendra Modi's vision of 'zero casualty disaster management', He instructed authorities to include at least 60 lakes under the project aimed at monitoring vulnerable water bodies in Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim. The initiative is being undertaken with the support of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

Senior officials said the meeting focused on enhancing disaster response mechanisms ahead of the monsoon season and addressing the increasing challenges posed by climate change and extreme weather events. Shah called for an integrated flood forecasting mechanism linking Central and state agencies to ensure timely dissemination of warnings and better disaster management coordination.

Shah directed that Flood Crisis Management Teams (FCMTs) be constituted and activated across all states. He asked the NDMA to undertake a detailed study to evaluate how effectively states are implementing directives issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs and disaster management guidelines related to forest fires, floods and heat waves.

Emphasising long-term climate resilience, Shah called for greater efforts towards water conservation and groundwater recharge through water storage structures and check dam projects. He said such initiatives would not only conserve water resources but also help reduce the impact of rising temperatures and heat waves.

Constitution plays vital role: Home Minister

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the Constitution and the judiciary have made significant contributions in deepening the roots of India's democracy.

"Since 1947, changes brought by Parliament and the assemblies have been accepted without shedding a drop of blood, which shows how deeply rooted democracy is in our country. Courts and the Constitution have a big role to play in achieving this," Shah said at the launch of two books authored by Solicitor General

Tushar Mehta – 'The Bench, the Bar and the Bizarre' and 'The Lawful and the Awful'. Shah said people have faith that in case of any injustice, the Constitution is there to protect them. "If there is an assault on rights, the doors of justice are open," he said.

Bengal tops list of crimes by foreign nationals in 2024, says NCRB data

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE latest crime data has revealed a sharp rise in offences involving foreign nationals, with the border states and the metropolitan cities emerging as major hotspots. According to the National Crime Records Bureau's (NCRB) 2024 report, West Bengal recorded the highest number of cases involving foreign nationals among the states, while Delhi led among the Union territories.

The report shows that West Bengal registered 992 cases involving foreign nationals during 2024. The figures have raised fresh concerns among security and investigating agencies over illegal infiltration, forged documentation and organised criminal networks operating across borders.

Bangladeshi nationals accounted for the largest share of arrests involving foreigners. The report stated that out of total 4,794 arrests during the year Bangladeshis accounted for 3,091. Most of these cases were linked to illegal entry into India and the use of forged documents. The NCRB report indicated that 54.2% of the cases against Bangladeshi nationals were registered under the Foreigners Act, while 41.5% were filed under the Passport Act. Investigators believe the pattern points largely to cross-border infiltration and fake identity documentation networks.

Delhi also emerged as a major centre for crimes involving foreign nationals. The national capital recorded cases against 509 Nigerians, 476 Nepali citizens and 245 Myanmar nationals. Officials said many of the FIRs were related to forged educational and identity documents allegedly used for admission into educational institutions and for obtaining official records. Most of the cases registered against foreign nationals were filed under the Foreigners Act and the Registration of Foreigners Act.

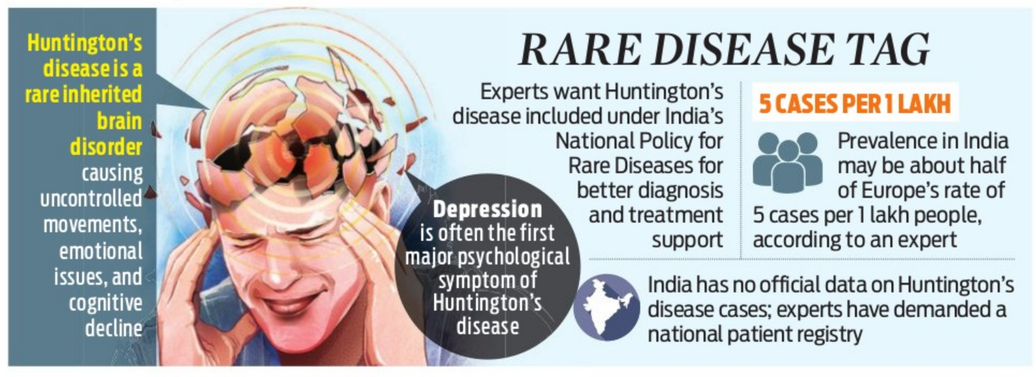
Declare Huntington's as rare disease: Experts

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

HUNTINGTON'S disease (HD), an inherited genetic disease that causes nerve cells in the brain to decay over time, needs to be included under the National Policy for Rare Diseases to ensure that people living with this disorder avail timely diagnosis, affordable treatment and robust medical care, experts said.

As there is no data on the number of people suffering from this progressive brain disorder that causes uncontrolled movements, emotional problems, and loss of thinking ability, there is an urgent need for a national registry, which also protects the identity of the patient, they added.

"The first battle for those suffering from HD is getting recognition from the government under the national policy for rare diseases. This acknowledgement will solve some of the problems of the patient and their caregivers, who often face discrimination and stigma," said Dr Sanjeev Jain, Emeritus Senior Professor of Psychiatry, NIMHANS, Bangalore. He said it at a day-long HD awareness and meeting here organised by the Huntington Disease Society of India (HDSI).


RARE DISEASE TAG
Huntington's disease is a rare inherited brain disorder causing uncontrolled movements, emotional issues, and cognitive decline
Depression is often the first major psychological symptom of Huntington's disease
Experts want Huntington's disease included under India's National Policy for Rare Diseases for better diagnosis and treatment support
5 CASES PER 1 LAKH
Prevalence in India may be about half of Europe's rate of 5 cases per 1 lakh people, according to an expert
India has no official data on Huntington's disease cases; experts have demanded a national patient registry

In India, the prevalence is not clearly known but may be about half of that in Europe (5 in 1 lakh), Dr Jain added.

"The first common psychological symptom associated with HD is depression. This can be both a symptom and a reaction to the realisation that their activities and thinking are not as they were before," Dr Jain, who has treated 200 HD patients in 15 years, told this paper. "There is no cure for the disease at present. No treatment has been developed to stop, slow, or reverse the progression, despite research over at least 30 years since the causative gene was discovered in 1993," Venkateswara Rao Koushik, Chairman of HDSI, said. "As it is an inherited disorder, all those directly blood-related may have a chance of sharing the genetic risk," said Koushik, a scientist with the Bangalore-based Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), who is taking care of his bedridden wife, a brilliant mathematician at one time.

According to Dr Arpit Agarwal, Director, Medical Affairs, EMMES CRO, there is a need to establish an autonomous rare disease institute focused on research, training, and raising awareness of rare diseases in the country. "There is not much awareness about rare diseases, especially HD."

Dr Hemlata Bhatia, VP, Genomics, Agilus Diagnostics, said even doctors are not aware of HD. "The sensitisation about rare diseases, including HD, should begin from the MBBS courses. Many medical interns are not even aware of genetic testing or even about the technical words." Anil Raina, ex-general manager (speciality care), Sanofi, said, "The actual number of people suffering from HD is not known. Diagnosis is a major challenge. As it develops later, most people are unable to realise what has happened to them. Diagnosis is thus delayed." India has released the National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD) 2021.

LEGAL SOUP

An FIR has been registered against a Jaipur-based journalist for allegedly posting a defamatory article on social media targeting the Rajasthan chief secretary and the administration.

1 DEAD IN MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT IN MAHA'S PALGHAR

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	45	30	Mumbai	34	30
Bhopal	40	28	Panaji	34	28
Jaipur	40	29	Patna	35	26
Amritsar	36	25	Lucknow	36	27
Chennai	33	28	Port Blair	30	27
Kolkata	33	26	Imphal	24	18
Srinagar	24	13	Chandigarh	35	25

Yogi adds six new faces to cabinet

UP CM throws caste mix to equation to counter Samajwadi Party's backward, Muslim pitch

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

IN the run-up to the UP state polls due early next year, the ruling BJP—buoyed by the two landslides in West Bengal and Assam—on Sunday carried out the long-pending expansion of the Yogi Adityanath Cabinet, inducting six new faces and promoting two ministers of state.

Of the six new faces, two were sworn in as cabinet ministers and the other four as ministers of state. Held at Jan Bhavan, the swearing-in ceremony witnessed former BJP state president Bhupendra Chaudhary and Samajwadi Party rebel MLA Manoj Pandey taking oaths as cabinet ministers. State ministers Ajit Pal Singh and Somendra Tomar were elevated to minister of state with independent charge. Four others, including Krishna Paswan, Surendra Diler, Hansraj Vishwakarma, and Kailash Rajput, were sworn in as ministers of state.

Sunday's expansion marks the second such exercise of the Yogi 2.0 cabinet, as the first was held in March 2024.

With a total strength of 403 members in the UP Assembly, the maximum size of the council of ministers can be 60. So far, the Yogi cabinet had only 54, with six berths left vacant.

Two Cabinet ministers & four ministers of state

Of the six new faces, two were sworn in as cabinet ministers and the other four as ministers of state. Held at Jan Bhavan, the swearing-in ceremony witnessed former BJP state president Bhupendra Chaudhary and Samajwadi Party rebel MLA Manoj Pandey taking oaths as cabinet ministers. State ministers Ajit Pal Singh and Somendra Tomar were elevated to minister of state with independent charge.

However, with the second expansion, the UP cabinet now has 23 cabinet ministers, 16 ministers of state (independent charge), and 21 ministers of state. The political pundits view this as an initial step to get into the poll mode while trying to strike a caste balance by reaching out to non-Yadav OBCs, Dalits and upper castes simultaneously to counter SP's PDA ('pichda', Dalit, and 'alpasankhyak') narrative.

Among the six new inductees, three -- Chaudhary, Rajput and Vishwakarma -- are OBC leaders; two – Diler and Krishna Paswan – are SC representatives, while Pandey is a Brahmin face.

While the induction of former UP BJP chief Chaudhury, hailing from Moradabad, is being perceived as an effort to reach out to the Jat community in the politically crucial western UP, Pandey, an SP rebel now unattached in the UP Assembly, is a three-time MLA from the Unchahar assembly seat in Raebareli district. Pandey's induction is being seen as an attempt to quell the anger of allegedly sulking Brahmins over the issues like the UGC's new rule and controversial questions using 'Pundits' as an option in a multiple-choice question paper in the police recruitment exam.

Similarly, the induction of Diler, a party MLA from Khair in the Aligarh district in the Braj region, and Paswan from Khaga in Fatehpur in central UP is being seen as a message to the Dalit community. The induction of Diler and Paswan has taken the number of Dalit ministers to eight in the Yogi cabinet. The UP Assembly has 86 reserved seats, of which 84 are represented by SC and two by ST. Of the 84 SC seats, 67 are represented by BJP MLAs currently. As far as non-Yadav OBC representation in the Yogi cabinet is concerned, there are 21 OBC ministers belonging to the BJP and its allies. Of the 21, seven are from the BJP and three allies are cabinet ministers, five are ministers of state (independent charge), and the remaining six are ministers of state.

Among the promoted state ministers, Tomar previously held the position of minister of state for energy, while Ajit Pal Singh served as a state minister for science and technology.

Like father, Nishant likely to enter Assembly through legislative council route

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

EX-Bihar CM Nitish Kumar's son and state health minister, Nishant Kumar, is likely to be elected to the state legislative council. Nishant was inducted into the state cabinet for the first time on Thursday last.

Besides Nishant, Deepak Prakash, son of Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) chief and Rajya Sabha member, Upendra Kushwaha, is also expected to get a berth in the state legislative council. As many as 10 seats in the state legislative council will fall vacant in June. The tenure of nine MLCs will end on June 28, while one seat is already vacant after Nitish Kumar resigned from the Upper House following his election to the Rajya Sabha on March 30. An announcement for the legislative council elections is likely to be made by the May end.

Meanwhile, RJD spokesperson Ejaz Ahmad claimed that the status of senior JD(U) leaders Vijay Kumar Chaudhary and Bijendra Prasad Yadav as deputy chief ministers has been compromised by citing an alleged discrepancy in two separate notifications issued by the Cabinet Secretariat Department in Bihar.

He claimed that the notification issued on April 15 — the day Samrat Choudhary took oath as the chief minister — had mentioned both Chaudhary and Yadav as deputy chief ministers along with the ministries allocated to them.

He further alleged that on May 7 notification, both leaders were mentioned only as ministers, without any reference to the post of deputy chief minister.

Berth for Kushwaha's son

Besides Nishant, Deepak Prakash, son of Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) chief and Rajya Sabha member, Upendra Kushwaha, is also expected to get a berth in the state legislative council. As many as 10 seats in the state legislative council will fall vacant in June. The tenure of nine MLCs will end on June 28.

AHMEDABAD DIARY

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA

Our correspondent in Gujarat

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Row over BJP leader's 'Vande Mataram' slip-up

The BJP's victory celebration at Gujarat BJP headquarters 'Kamalam' in Gandhinagar on May 4 snowballed into a political embarrassment after state BJP president Jagadish Vishwakarma wrongly credited Rabindranath Tagore instead of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee as the composer of 'Vande Mataram'. The slip-up, made publicly in the presence of the chief minister and deputy chief minister during celebrations for the BJP's five-state poll victories, triggered a fierce Congress attack. Congress leader Hemang Rawal accused the BJP of "doing politics in the name of Vande Mataram."

Narmada local poll rout sparks internal rebellion

The BJP's defeat in Gujarat's Narmada local body polls has triggered an internal rebellion, with senior BJP MP Mansukh Vasava attacking the district leadership during a party brainstorming session. Explosive allegations flew as Vasava accused district leaders of having a "nexus" with opposition leader Chaitar Vasava and demanded that incapable office-bearers resign immediately. Targeting district BJP chief Neel Rao, Vasava mocked him for "waking up at 9-10 am and sitting in AC offices" instead of fighting elections. He also called district in-charge Arjun Chaudhary a "puppet."

BJP accused of doing 'politics over water'

Even before the political dust of the Morbi Municipal Corporation elections could settle, a fresh controversy has erupted from Ward No. 3, where Congress has accused BJP leaders of "politics over water". Former Morbi Congress president Mukesh Gami alleged that BJP corporators denied drinking water to residents who allegedly did not support the party in elections. The charge surfaced after screenshots from a BJP election WhatsApp group went viral, allegedly showing leaders insulting residents complaining about severe summer water shortages in Mahendranagar.

In a day, 6 killed in lightning strikes in J'khand

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

SIX people were killed in a lightning strike during the last 24 hours in Jharkhand. While a 13-year-old girl was killed in Garhwa on Sunday, five others died in Koderma, Latehar and Chatra on Saturday.

In Sukuruhutu village under the Bharno block of Gumla, a 13-year-old student (Aman Mahto) died, while his younger brother sustained injuries.

The deceased's father, Phulendra Mahto, said that his two sons Aman and Amit Mahto had gone to graze goats when it started to rain. "To escape the rain, my sons took shelter under a tree when a sudden lightning strike hit them," he said.

Mahto further added that, on learning about the incident, they went to the spot and rushed them to the nearest Community Health Centre. Doctors declared Aman Mahto brought dead, he said.

Earlier on Sunday, three members of a family were killed at Nanduadih in the Satgawan block of Koderma. The deceased include Saraswati Devi (42), her son Ankit Kumar (12), and Mundrika Devi (60). In Balumath, Latehar, a young man lost his life due to a lightning strike, and three other people sustained injuries.

'Threat to border villages is threat to India': Naga bodies write to Centre

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

NAGA organisations in Manipur have petitioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging that foreign-based militants operating under the cover of Suspension of Operations (SoO) and the Myanmar-based Kuki National Army-Burma (KNA-B) are executing a campaign of invasion, demographic aggression and ethnic cleansing in the Naga ancestral homeland.

The allegation from the United Naga Council, Naga Women's Union and All Naga Students' Association, Manipur, followed a series of violent incidents in Manipur's Naga areas, particularly Thursday's attack in three Naga villages close to the India-Myanmar border in Manipur's Kamjong district. Two civilians had reportedly sustained bullet injuries, while over a dozen houses were burnt down. The Naga organisations alleged that the "state" had not only failed to protect the people but also its "silence, appeasement, and partisan conduct of its forces" emboldened the aggressors.

"When Naga homes are bombed, people are kidnapped by foreign terrorists, and national highways are blocked,

the national security stands broken and breached. This memorandum is, therefore, not a petition for favour. It is a demand for justice, a reminder of constitutional obligation, and an earnest call to honour the Framework Agreement before the frontier is seized by foreign intrusion," the memorandum addressed to Modi read.

The Framework Agreement was signed between the central government and the Isak-Muivah faction of the rebel group National Socialist Council of Nagalim, or NSCN-IM, in 2015.

The Naga organisations alleged that the SoO agreement, signed with myriad Kuki rebel groups, had become a licence for territorial expansion.

"So cadres and KNA-B militants operate in tandem, engaging in targeted killings of Naga civilians, burning of ancestral villages," Naga bodies wrote.

Minister vows to probe 'fake SC certificate racket' of TMC

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

KSHUDIRAM Tudu, who took oath a minister in the first-ever BJP government in West Bengal, on Sunday said he would order a probe into alleged fake SC certificate rackets run under the Trinamool Congress rule. "After taking charge as a minister, I would find out how fake certificates were issued during the previous TMC government. I will take strong action against the culprits involved in the rackets," said 55-year-old Tudu, first-time BJP MLA from Ranibandh (ST) constituency in Bankura district.

He told reporters that many people have got undue benefits showing the fake SC certificates. "Our government will stop this corrupt practice of the TMC across districts. Strong measures will also be taken against those officials, who are involved in these irregularities. No one will be spared," said Tudu, who was a teacher.

He was felicitated by the Adivasi community in Bankura. district. "Besides taking action against corruptions, overall development of the Adivasi community will also be one of our top priorities," he said on the occasion. "Action will be taken many people, who are enjoying

Newly sworn minister Kshudiram Tudu

government facilities showing forged certificates," he added.

Tudu's victory was seen as part of the BJP's strong performance in Assembly polls in the tribal-dominated Jangalmahal region. His induction into the Suvendu Adhikari cabinet is being viewed as the BJP's attempt to consolidate its tribal outreach in the state after sweeping large parts of western Bengal. Tudu was sworn in as a minister on Saturday along with BJP leaders Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Ashok Kirtania and Nisith Pramanik. Tudu stays in a rented house in Bardhaman town along with his wife Malati Tudu Hembram and daughter. Hembram said, "As an ICDS worker I know the plight of the marginalised people. My support will be there with my husband for the development of people," she said.

Oppn leader's body found in Hooghly district

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

THE body of a man was found in Hooghly district on Sunday, with the TMC claiming that he was a party panchayat member and alleging that the number of post-poll violence deaths of its workers in West Bengal went up to six.

A TMC councillor was arrested in Murshidabad on Saturday night for allegedly obstructing the campaign of Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury. Sharing a picture of a blood-splattered body on its social media site, the TMC claimed the deceased was Sahadeb Bag, a member of Nokunda gram panchayat. A police officer said it was being investigated whether Bag had personal enmity with anyone and if there was any business rivalry. The local BJP unit said none of its workers was involved in the incident. The TMC councilor, Bhismadev Karmakar, allegedly stopped Chowdhury's rally on April 4.

SOMNATH'S RHYTHM OF FAITH, RESILIENCE AND RENEWAL

OPINION

GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT

Union Minister for Culture & Tourism

Atma is not destroyed when the body is destroyed

–Bhagavad Gita

THE essence carried by this shloka is reflected in Somnath temple located on the southern shore of Gujarat's Kathiawad region. Regarded as the first among the 12 Jyotirlingas, its walls have borne the brunt of battle many a time at the hands of invaders, only to rise again and resume the drums and bells of worship.

Across more than a thousand years of history, Sanatana Dharma—understood as a diverse, decentralised constellation of religious practices, philosophies, rituals and institutions—has experienced repeated disruption from political conquest, regime change and shifting structures of power.

These disruptions included the destruction or repurposing of temples, monasteries and centres of learning, as well as the displacement of patronage networks that had sustained religious institutions. Yet, despite these ruptures, the broader religious tradition endured, adapted and reasserted itself across time. The historical significance of this endurance lies not in claims of uninterrupted dominance, but in the capacity of religious life to survive institutional loss and political vulnerability.

From the early medieval period, temples functioned not only as places of worship but also as economic, cultural and political centres. Their close association with ruling elites made them vulnerable during periods of military conflict. The raid on Somnath temple by Mahmud of Ghazni is among the most discussed examples. Persian chronicles celebrated the event as a victory, while later Indian traditions emphasised loss, resistance and eventual restoration. What is historically verifiable is that the temple did not disappear from religious life; it was rebuilt under regional rulers such as the Chaulukyas and continued to attract devotion. Similar patterns are visible elsewhere.

The history of Somnath must never be reduced to a single episode. From ancient times, Prabhasa Patan has been a sacred geography. Patan, known by different names in different sources including Prabhas-Pattan, Shiva-Pattan and Prabhas-Tirtha, is an ancient town on the east of which three beautiful rivers merge at a triveni—held sacred for the belief of marking the cremation of Lord Krishna's body. In the neighbourhood lies the Vairagya Kshetra and Gopi Tulow, from where people procure Gopi Chandan. Pilgrimage to this region is considered incomplete without visiting this sacred land.

One can find details of the ruins found in this region in the Report on the Antiquities of Kathiawad and Kachh, and The Antiquities of the town of Dabhoi in Gujarat.

Somnath also represents a rare confluence of Shaiva and Vaishnava traditions, repeatedly reminding us that the Indian heritage has always been plural and inclusive.

As Bharat continues its journey in the twenty-first century, the spirit of Somnath offers a guiding principle: that a civilisation remains strong when it is rooted, remains relevant when it is adaptable, and remains unified when it is inclusive.

The modern chapter in the history of Somnath in independent India began on November 12, 1947, barely months after the unfortunate Partition, when our first deputy prime minister and home minister visited this sacred land.

Accompanied by senior leaders, Sardar Patel took a decisive pledge to reconstruct this historic temple. What came next was the institutional framework that carried the national consciousness. Somnath was reconstructed, conceived as more than the rebuilding of a shrine, but also as a cultural and intellectual centre.

The consecration ceremony performed on the early morning of May 11, 1951 in the august presence of President Rajendra Prasad reaffirmed the shared cultural memory of the nation.

As India advances towards 2047, these civilisational values assume renewed relevance. In an era marked by technological acceleration and geopolitical uncertainty, India's gift to humanity lies in demonstrating that progress need not abandon compassion, and power need not forsake restraint. The endurance of Somnath reminds us that true leadership—national and global—is sustained not only by strength, but by wisdom, memory and an unwavering commitment to shared human dignity.

The Somnath Swabhiman Parv 2026-27 is envisaged as a year-long national commemoration. The parv, which began in January, marks two significant milestones: one thousand years since the first recorded attack on the temple and 75 years since the reopening of the reconstructed temple in 1951. It thereby positions Somnath as a unifying national symbol of endurance, collective memory and cultural self-respect. The commemoration shall culminate in a major national event on May 11, supported by a structured sequence of yatras, cultural productions, dialogues, educational initiatives and coordinated programmes at the jyotirlingas and shivalayas nationwide.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who also serves as Chairperson of the Shri Somnath Trust, Somnath has entered a renewed phase of revival. Governance reforms, infrastructure enhancement, heritage conservation and cultural initiatives have strengthened the temple's role as a living spiritual centre. Sustainability measures and women-led service initiatives further reflect how civilisational values are being expressed through contemporary responsibility and inclusion.

The Swabhiman Parv creates a connection between modern society and the deeper essence of its culture through cultural, spiritual and educational activities. It is a reminder to every generation that the temple of Somnath is not just about its physical existence; its true essence lies in the values and the responsibility that are consciously transferred from one generation to another. In this spirit, Somnath stands today not only as a restored shrine, but as a living tirtha.

(Views are personal)

Four miners dead in Colombia coal mine explosion

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	21	1	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	28	24	SNY	Melbourne	26	15	LC
Dhaka	31	19	SNY	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	21	SNY	New York	7	2	SNY
Houston	31	19	TDS	Singapore	28	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	1	-5	SNY
London	13	9	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

Iran responds to US offer as Gulf attacks rise

Drones strike near Qatar as UAE, Kuwait repel attacks; Trump says would need two weeks to hit all Iran targets, Netanyahu says war 'not over'

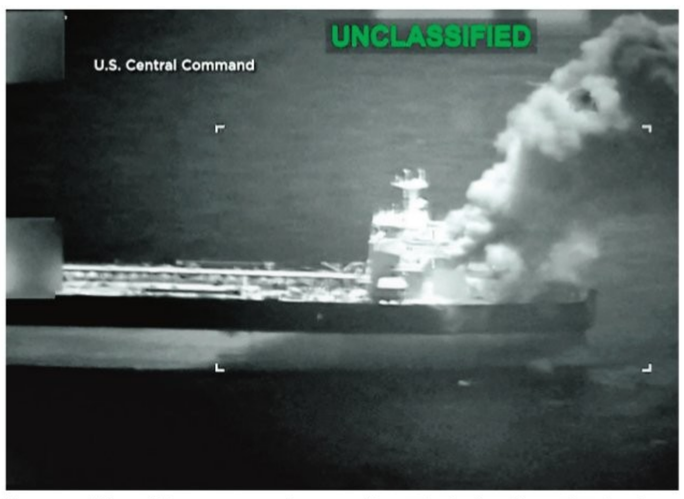
TEHRAN

IRAN responded to Washington's latest peace proposal on Sunday, after drones threatened several Gulf region targets and Tehran warned it would not hold back from retaliating against any new US strikes.

According to state broadcaster IRIB, Tehran's response, passed to Pakistani mediators, focuses on ending the war "on all fronts" as well as on "ensuring shipping security". Pakistan has been mediating talks between Washington and Tehran amid tensions disrupting shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

US President Donald Trump had said he was expecting Iran's reply by Friday, but as the wait dragged on, the ceasefire in the Gulf came under increasing strain, including from Sunday's drone strikes, one of which hit and damaged a freighter sailing towards a port in Qatar. The United Arab Emirates accused Iran of being behind another attack that targeted its territory in what would be, if confirmed, only the second alleged strike on a Gulf country since the start of the month-old truce.

"We will never bow down to the enemy, and if there is talk of dialogue or negotiation, it does not mean surrender or retreat," Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on X Sunday.



Screen grab from video appears to show a strike on the Iranian-flagged tanker | AFP

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in an interview on Sunday that Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium must be "taken out" before the US-Israeli war against Iran can be considered over.

WAR WATCH

"It's not over, because there's still nuclear material — enriched uranium — that has to be taken out of Iran. There's still enrichment sites that have to be dismantled," Netanyahu said in an excerpt of an interview due to air later Sunday on CBS's "60 Minutes" program.

"You go in and you take it out," the Israeli leader said when asked how the uranium could be removed.

Qatar's defence ministry said a freighter arriving in the country's waters from Abu Dhabi was hit by a drone on Sunday off the port of Mesaieed. The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre said the bulk carrier reported being struck by an unknown projectile.

"There was a small fire that has been extinguished, there are no casualties. There is no reported environmental impact," it said. In a social media post on Sunday, the spokesman for the Iranian parliament's national security commission warned the United States: "Our restraint is over as of today."

"Any attack on our vessels will trigger a strong and decisive Iranian response against American ships and bases," Ebrahim Rezaei said. Iran's Revolutionary Guards had threatened the day before to target US interests in the Middle East if its tankers came under fire — as they did on Friday when a US fighter jet fired on and disabled two Iran-flagged vessels in the Gulf of Oman.

The United Arab Emirates said that its territory had also come under attack, and called out Iran by name. In Seoul, defence ministry spokesman Park Il told reporters that a South Korean cargo vessel had been hit on Monday and was damaged by fire before making its way to port in Dubai. *AFP*

Iran warns UK, France over warships, says those siding US to 'face trouble'

TEHRAN

IRAN warned Britain and France on Sunday that its armed forces would launch a "decisive and immediate response" to any warships sent to the Strait of Hormuz, as tensions escalated over control of the strategic waterway. "We remind them that both in times of war and in times of peace, only the Islamic Republic of Iran can establish security in this strait and it will not allow any country to interfere in such matters," Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi posted on X. Britain and France are leading efforts to create an international coalition to secure the strait after a peace deal between the US and Iran is reached. Iran's army also warned countries complying with new US sanctions against Tehran that they would face difficulties crossing the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil and gas supplies pass in peacetime.

"Countries that comply with the United States by imposing sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran will certainly face difficulties crossing the strait," army official Mohammad Akraminia told IRNA news agency. "We have established a new legal and security system in the Strait of Hormuz. From now on, any vessel wishing to pass through it must coordinate with us," he added.

The United States and Bahrain have drafted a UN resolution calling on Iran to halt restrictions on shipping through the waterway, which has become a major flashpoint since the outbreak of war on February 28. On Saturday, Iranian parliament national security commission chief Ebrahim Azizi also warned governments against backing the US-led resolution, saying countries siding with Washington would face "severe consequences". *AFP*

IRAN WAR MAY SHADOW TRUMP'S CHINA TRIP

WASHINGTON: Weeks before heading to Beijing, Donald Trump had predicted that Chinese President Xi Jinping would "give me a big, fat hug" during the visit. But analysts say China's economic ties with Iran and lingering trade tensions with Washington could dampen the atmosphere around the summit. Though Trump has long praised Xi, expectations for major trade breakthroughs remain low. Beijing is also expected to scale down the grandeur seen during Trump's 2017 "state visit-plus". China, Iran's biggest oil buyer, reportedly pushed Tehran to maintain the fragile ceasefire amid trade tensions with Washington.

ISRAEL SAYS 2 PARAMEDICS LINKED TO HEZBOLLAH KILLED

BEIRUT: Two paramedics from the Hezbollah-affiliated Islamic Health Committee were killed and five others wounded in Israeli strikes on southern Lebanon on Sunday, the health ministry said, despite a ceasefire in place since April 17. The ministry said Israel "directly targeted" two Health Committee sites in Qalaway and Tibnin, condemning continued "violations of international laws". Israel has continued strikes in Lebanon, saying it reserves the right to act against "planned, imminent or ongoing attacks" under the US-backed truce terms. Hezbollah has also kept up attacks, mainly targeting Israeli troops in south Lebanon.

Suicide bomber's attack on security post kills 14 in northwest Pakistan

PESHAWAR

THE death toll from a suicide attack on a security post in northwest Pakistan rose to 14 police officers, authorities said early Sunday, as a self-proclaimed breakaway group of the Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

A suicide bomber and several gunmen detonated an explosives-laden vehicle near the post in Bannu, a district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan, late Saturday, said senior police official Sajjad Khan. The attack triggered an intense shootout, and some officers were killed in the exchange, while others died later after the building collapsed. Rescuers conducted an hourslong search operation using heavy machinery to retrieve bodies from under the rubble, Khan said, adding that three police officers were wounded in the attack.

Meanwhile, hundreds gathered Sunday at the police headquarters in Bannu to attend the funerals of the slain officers. Uniformed colleagues stood in silence as coffins draped in the national flag were carried past grieving families. Some relatives broke down upon seeing the coffins, as a Muslim cleric led funeral prayers under tight security.

A worker clear rubble with an excavator as officers and local residents gather at the site of overnight suicide bombing at a security post in Fatah Khel, in Bannu, a district in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan | AP

Security forces have launched an operation to track down the perpetrators. A newly formed militant group, Ittehad-ul-Mujahideen Pakistan, claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement sent to reporters. *AP*

Spain begins repatriation from virus-hit ship

TENERIFE

THE first passengers to be evacuated from the hantavirus-hit cruise ship that is off Spain's Canary Islands arrived Sunday afternoon in Madrid, where they are being taken to a military hospital. Spanish nationals were the first to leave the MV Hondius, which remains anchored off Tenerife, the largest island in the Spanish archipelago off West Africa's coast. The ship arrived early the same morning.

Planes carrying French and Canadian nationals left Tenerife after the Spanish plane. A Dutch plane was due to depart with Germans, Belgians and Greeks, while an American plane was expected to reach Tenerife around 5:30 p.m. local time (1630 GMT), according to FlightRadar 24, which shows live aircraft flight tracking details. Maria van Kerkhove, the World Health Organization's top epidemiologist, said that a number of other flights were expected to arrive Sunday, including ones to repatriate passengers to Turkey, the United Kingdom and Ireland. None of the more than 140 people on the Hondius has shown symptoms of the virus, officials from Spain's health ministry, WHO and cruise company Oceanwide Expeditions said.

Two Indian crew members aboard the ship were evacuated to the Netherlands and were reported healthy and asymptomatic, according to the Indian Embassy in Spain.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus sought to reassure the public, repeating on Sunday that the risk for the general public from the outbreak is low.

Even so, those disembarking and personnel working at the port of Granadilla in Tenerife wore protective gear during the evacuation process, including face masks, hazmat suits and respirators. Video obtained by The Associated Press showed passengers on the tarmac donning similar suits and being sprayed down with disinfectant.

A WHO spokesperson didn't immediately respond to a question from the AP about why such security protocols were being taken, despite officials' repeated reassurances about the low general risk from the virus.

Passengers and crew from over 20 nationalities will be evacuated through Monday, with Spanish nationals placed under quarantine in Madrid, authorities said. *AP*

DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II AT BANGALORE
4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru- 560 001
Original Application No.692/2024

Between : **STATE BANK OF INDIA,** Represented by its Chief Manager, Mr. Krishna Kant Rastogi, Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, (SARB), J. C. Road, Bangalore - 560 002 , Email ID : sbi.05173@ sbi.co.in, PAN No. AAACS8577K, IFSC Code : SBIN0005173, Mobile No. 9480841423 **...Applicant**

AND

M/s. Spectra Tools and Others **....Defendants**

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993 TO THE DEFENDANT No. 3 THROUGH PAPER PUBLICATION

To : Shri S. J. Shetty., S/o. J. Shetty, Aged about 50 Years, Residing at : D-302, Mandtri Woodlands, Arakere, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore - 560 075.

1. WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application under section 19 of Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against Defendant for Recovery sum of **Rs.1,03,92,171.71** (Rupees One Crore Three Lakhs Ninety Two Thousand One Hundred and Seventy One and Paise Seventy One Only)

2. The above mentioned Defendant are directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or duly authorised agent in support of your defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **19.06.2025 at 11.00 a.m.** as to why reliefs prayed should not be granted.

3.Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal, on this the **10.02.2026** at Bangalore.

By order of the Tribunal
Sd/-Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2, Bengaluru

BEFORE THE KARNATAKA WAKF TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU DIVISION,
Hameedsha Complex, # 24 and 26, 2nd Floor, Cubbonpet Main Road, Bengaluru.
O.S. No. 21/2022

Between : M/s Noorani Masjid Trust Rep. by its authorized person Sri Babu Khan, S/o Abdul Khuddus, Aged about 36 years R/at: Billanakote Colony, Sompura Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District - 562 111. **...Plaintiff**

And : The Karnataka State Board of Auqaf, No.6, Cunningham Road, Bangalore-560052. Rep. by its Chief Executive Officer and others **...Defendant**

Notice on Interim Application No. 14 and 16 to LR's of Defendant No. 04 (b) to (f)

4(b) Chikamma D/o Late Mahimanna Aged about 47 years R/at Kengal Kempohalli Village KHD Filed, Vakuluth Billanakote Post Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural-562111.
4(c) Channamma D/o Late Mahimanna Aged about 45 years R/at Kengal Kempohalli Village KHD Filed, Vakuluth Billanakote Post Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural-562111.
4(d) Bhagyamma D/o Late Mahimanna Aged about 43 years R/at Kengal Kempohalli Village KHD Filed, Vakuluth Billanakote Post Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural-562111.
4(e) Sundamma D/o Late Mahimanna Aged about 38 years R/at Kengal Kempohalli Village KHD Filed, Vakuluth Billanakote Post Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural-562111.
4(f) Neelamma D/o Late Mahimanna Aged about 36 years R/at Kengal Kempohalli Village KHD Filed, Vakuluth Billanakote Post Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural-562111.

NOTICE ON I.A NO. 14 TO 16 TO LR'S OF DEFENDANT NO. 4 (b) to (f)

Whereas, this suit has been filed by Sri. R. Kotwal, Advocate before this Tribunal under Order VII Rule 1 and 2 of Code of Civil Procedure R/W Section 83 of the Waqf Act, 1995, for the relief of declaration and permanent injunction and other consequential relief. I.A. No. 14 filed Under order XXII rule 9 R/W/Section 151 of Code of Civil Procedure, praying the Tribunal to set aside the abatement against the deceased Defendant No. 4 and proceed with the case further by permitting the legal representatives to come on record as Defendant No. 4 (a) to (g), in the ends of justice and equity.

I.A. No. 16 filed Under section 5 of limitation act, praying the Tribunal to condone the delay of 605 days in filing the application under order XXII Rule 9 R/W/ Section 151 of Code of Civil Procedure, in the ends of justice and equity.

SUIT SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Sy.No. 14/4, measuring 0.36 Guntas situated at Billanakote Village, Sompura Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District consisting graveyard (Khabrastan) and Eidgah and bounded on:-

East by : High Way Road, **West by :** Kempaiah's Land, **North by :** High way Road, **South by :** Pacha Sahebaru's Land.

Hence **Notice of Interim Application No. 14 and 16** is hereby is given to you **LR's of Defendant No. 4(b) to (f)** and directed to appear before this Tribunal situated at # 24, 2nd Floor, Hameed Shah Complex, Cubbonpet Main Road Bangalore in person or through an Advocate duly instructed or through someone authorized by law to act for yourself in this case **at 11.00 A.M on 01.06.2026.**

In default of your appearance on the day mentioned above the suit will be heard and determined in your absence, on merits.

Issued under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this day 24th Day of April 2026.

By Order of the Tribunal
I/C Sheristedar,
Karnataka Wakf Tribunal, Bangalore.

Advocate for Plaintiff :
Mr. R. Kothwal (Advocate)
No. 4/1, 1st Floor, 'A' Wing, HMS Complex, Cubbonpet Main Road, Bangalore-560 002.
Ph. No. 9448312007

DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE (DRT I)
4th Floor, BSNL Building, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru- 560 001
Original Application No. 1036/2023

Between : **STATE BANK OF INDIA,** Malleshwaram Branch, Represented by its Chief Manager, Mr. Binoy Kumar Shrivastava , Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, (SARB), J. C. Road, Bangalore - 560 002, Email ID : sbi.05173@sbi.co.in PAN No.AAACS8577K, IFSC Code : SBIN000 5173, Mobile No. 7506363390 **...Applicant**

AND

Sri SURAJ U., ...Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993 TO THE DEFENDANT No. 1 THROUGH PAPER PUBLICATION

To :1. Sri Suraj U., S/o. Suresh Udupi, Aged about 36 years, Residing at No. 48, 1st Floor, Justice Beemaiah Layout, 4th Cross, Railway Diesel Shed Road, K. R. Puram, Bangalore - 560 036, Ph: 9632036071, PAN Card: ABAPU6698M Also having addesses at :

a. EYBGS India Pvt Ltd., Brigade Metropolis, 14th & 15th Floor, Garudacharpalya, Whitefield Road, Mahadevapura Post, Bangalore - 560 048.
b. No. 6-1-57, Souza Aluminium Industry, Volakadu, Udupi - 576 101.
c.Flat No. B-205, 2nd Floor, Block"B", "Mahaghar's Vajra" Apartment, Sy. No. 41, Holiday Village Road, Adjacent to BCCHS Ltd., Layout, Vajrahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore - 560 062.

1.WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application under section 19 of Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against Defendant for Recovery sum of **Rs.64,54,717/-** (Rupees Sixty Four Lakhs Fifty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Seventeen Only)

2.The above mentioned Defendants are directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or duly authorised agent in support of your defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **23.06.2026 at 11.00 a.m.** as to why reliefs prayed should not be granted.

3.Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal, on this the **28.04.2026** at Bangalore.

By order of the Tribunal
Sd/-Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2, Bengaluru

Advocates for Plaintiff: R & J Associates

DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II AT BANGALORE
4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru- 560 001
Original Application No.746/2024

Between : **STATE BANK OF INDIA,** Virajpet Branch (Lending Branch), Represented by its Chief Manager,Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, (SARB), Mr. Krishna Kant Rastogi, J. C. Road, Bangalore - 560 002 , Email ID : sbi.05173@ sbi.co.in, PAN No. AAACS8577K, IFSC Code : SBIN0005173, Mobile No. 9448686183 **...Applicant**

AND

Ms. Mary Angelin A ....Defendant

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993 TO THE DEFENDANT No. 1 THROUGH PAPER PUBLICATION

To : Ms. Mary Angelin A, D/o. Mr. Antony Cruews, Aged about 32 Years, Residing at : No. 87/25, 2nd Cross, Near Indira Convent,Thavarekere, Bengaluru - 560 081, PAN No. AXFPA4072J Also having Address at :

i) Ms. Mary Angelin A, Office at : Infosys Pvt Ltd., Electronic City Phase - I ,Bangalore - 560 100.
ii) Ms. Mary Angelin A, Flat No. 432, 4th Floor, DS- Max Storry Apartment, Maragondanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 562 110.
iii) Ms. Mary Angelin A, No. 30, 2nd Cross, 2nd Main, Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Near Holly Cross Hall, Bangalore South, Bommanahalli, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560 068.
iv) Ms. Mary Angelin A, No. 30, 2nd Cross, Near Corner Cafe, Tavarekere, Bangalore - 560 029.

1. WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application under section 19 of Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against Defendant for Recovery sum of **Rs.36,78,429/-** (Rupees Thirty Six Lakhs Seventy Eight Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Nine Only)

2. The above mentioned Defendant are directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or duly authorised agent in support of your defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **16.06.2026 at 11.00 a.m.** as to why reliefs prayed should not be granted.

3.Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal, on this the **04.02.2026** at Bangalore.

By order of the Tribunal
Sd/-Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2, Bengaluru

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the General Public that our Client is intending to purchase the Residential Property bearing **House No.953, Property No. 53-34-9/1, New E-Aasthi-/E-PID No. 3716952029,** situated at 1st Block, Banashankari 1st Stage, Gavipura Village, now within the limits of Bangalore West City Corporation, Srinagar Ward, 10th Cross, Srinagar, measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 42+41/2 feet, totally measuring 1245 Sq. ft. consisting of 1100 square feet RCC roofed house, with all civic amenities, which is more fully described in the Schedule hereunder as the **"SCHEDULE PROPERTY"** from its Owner **Mr. RAGHOTHAMA. M.B.** aged about 66 years, S/o late M. Bindumadhavarao, residing at No. 953, 10th Cross, 13th Main, Srinagar, Bengaluru-560 050. The Owner has represented to our Client that he is the sole and absolute owner of the Schedule Property having unrestricted rights of alienation over the same. The Owner has further represented to our Client that the Schedule Property is free from all encumbrances, charge, lien, litigations and/ or any third party rights/ claims of any nature whatsoever.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that if any person/s, having/claiming/asserting any right, title interest or claim entity, has pending litigation, or any ex-parte decree, tenancy, mortgage, charge, lien or demand or any other interest of whatsoever nature in or upon the Schedule Property or any part thereof, the same may be brought to the notice of the undersigned in writing together with all details and documents in support of such claim within **15 (Fifteen) days** from the date of this Notice, failing which, it shall be deemed that the aforesaid Owner has a clear and marketable title to the Schedule Property and that none else has any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property; and our Client would be at liberty to proceed to enter into and complete the intended transaction in respect of the Schedule Property. Any objections and/or claims received after the expiry of the stipulated period shall neither be entertained nor be binding on our Client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the **residential property bearing House No.953, Property No. 53-34-9/1, New E-Aasthi/E-PID No. 3716952029,** situated at 1st Block, Banashankari 1st Stage, Gavipura Village, now within the limits of Bangalore West City Corporation, Srinagar Ward, 10th Cross, Srinagar, measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 42+41/2 feet, totally measuring 1245 Sq. ft, consisting of 1100 square feet RCC roofed house, with all civic amenities and bounded on: **East by :** Site No. 952, **West by :** Site No. 954, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Site No. 962.

N Shiva Kumar,
Advocate / Partner
Shiva & Shiva, Advocates,
No: 11, Shiva Krupa, 2nd Floor, 19th Main, Rajajinagar 2nd Block Bangalore-560 010, **Ph: 080-23323131**
Place: Bengaluru Date: 11-05-2026

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

"NOTICE FOR INVITING APPLICATIONS"
(No. NWR-HQ0Comm(CATG)/63/2020 dt. 07.05.2026)

Applications are invited by Principal Chief Commercial Manager/North Western Railway on behalf of President of India from reputed manufacturers/suppliers of PAD items (as described in form) who are willing to supply PAD items on mobile & static catering units over North Western Railway. The interested Manufacturer Firms/Suppliers should send their applications on prescribed application form. The application form fees of Rs 6300/- (non refundable) and short listing registration fees as mentioned in annexure -I of the application form should also be submitted within 10 days from last date of submission of application form after creation of MeRS ID in portal, failing which application will be summarily rejected. Last date for submission of application form is 09.06.2026 upto 15.00 hrs and opening of applications on the same day i.e. 09.06.2026 at 15.30 hrs. The application form can also be downloaded from NWR' s website **"www.nwr.indianrailways.gov.in"** after publication of this notice. All details of terms & conditions as well as application form are available on NWR's website.

Address:-
Principal Chief Commercial Manager, North Western Railway, HQ Office,Jawahar Circle, Malviya Nagar Jaipur-302017.
Dy. Chief Commercial Manager/Claims & Catg. North Western Railway, Jaipur

Follow us on : /NWRailways NWRailways_ **671-CQ/26**

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client Sri. B.S.Surendranath, aged 55 years, S/o B.S.Srinivasa Murthy, intending to purchase the residential property bearing khaneshumari No.2288/2185/2281, having Devanahalli Municipal khata/assessment No.167/2713/2536 and presently having EPID No.32-7-81B measuring East to West: 74+91/2 feet, North to South: 55+53/2 feet, totally measuring 4482 sq.ft.,or 416.391 sq.mtrs., situated at Tippusultan Road, Devanahalli town, Devanahalli taluk, Bangalore Rural dist., from the present owner Sri.N.Prem Kumar son of R.Nagaraj. Any person (s) or Financial Institution(s) ascertaining any right, title, interest or claim in this property or any part there of and in any manner whatsoever, may lodge their objections and/claims along with supporting documentary evidence to the below Address within One Week.

B.S. Reddy, Advocate; No.82, Sannatammanhalli, T.C.Palya Main Road, Bangalore-560036; Phone: 9964079695; Mail:sriven6@gmail.com.

Can Fin Homes Ltd
(Sponsor: CANARA BANK)
HOME LOANS @ DOORSTEPS
KORAMANGALA BRANCH

586, 2nd Floor, 80ft Rd, 8th Block, Near Police Station, Opp. Bethany School Koramangala, Bangalore-560095
koramangala@canfinhomes.com
Tel: 080-41112879, Mob:7625079131/7625079457
CIN: L85110KA1987PLC008699

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
[proviso to rule 9(1)]

E-Auction SALE NOTICE for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

NOTICE is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd., Koramangala Branch, will be sold by holding E-Auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **29/05/2026**, for recovery of **Rs.37,35,432/-** (Rupees Thirty-Seven Lakh Thirty-Five Thousand Four Hundred and Thirty-Two Only) due to Can Fin Homes Ltd. from **Mr. Srinivas H and Mrs. LAKSHMAMMA H** (Borrowers) **and Mr. BYLAPPA** (Guarantor), as on 11.05.2026 together with further interest and other charges thereon.

The reserve price will be **Rs.70,80,000/-** (Rupees Seventy Lakh Eighty Thousand Only) and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs.7,08,000/-** (Rupees Seven Lakh Eight Thousand Only)

Description of the Immovable Property

All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing Southern Portion of Site No. 9, BBMP Sy no.1, Property no. 50/9, Old Sy no. 17, Earlier Sy no.50, New Sy no. 50/2B, V.P.Katha no. 24, Khaneshumari no 9, Katha no. 24/40 is situtated in 2nd main road, A.K.Colony, Behind Madduramma Temple, very near to Nagarbhavi circle,Nagarbhavi village, Yeshwanthpur hobli, under BBMP, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore-560072, totally measuring 720 Sq. Ft. and bounded on the East by: House belongs to Sri.Munivenkatappa, West by :House belongs to Smt.Velliyamma, North by : Remaining portion of same no. 50/9, belongs to H Hemanth Kumar after 15ft road, A.K colony main road and South by :20ft road &Sri.Muthaiah's property.

Known Encumbrances : NIL

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, provided in the official website of Can Fin Homes Ltd., (www.canfinhomes.com) please refer to the following link https://www.canfinhomes.com SearchAuction.aspx Link for participating in e-auction : www.auctionbazaar.com

Place: Bangalore
Date: 11.05.2026

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd.,

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Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd.
REGISTERED OFFICE: The Ruby, 10th Floor, 29 Senapati Bapat Marg, Dadar (W), Mumbai-400028. Tel: 022-66581300www.arcil.co.in
CIN-U65999MH2002PLC134884. Website: www.arcil.co.in

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the Authorised Officer of **Asset Reconstruction Company(India)Limited** hereinafter referred to as "Arcil") is a securitization and Reconstruction company incorporated under the companies Act ,1956 and registered with the Reserve Bank of India under section 3 of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of security interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and whereas the Borrower/Co-Borrowers as mentioned of the below chart obtained loans from Vistaar Financial Services Pvt Ltd (VFSPL), and whereas Arcil has acquired the financial assets relating to the loan accounts mentioned of the below chart and Whereas Arcil, being the secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 2 of the security interest(Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice calling upon the Borrowers/Co-Borrowers as to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served upon some of them for various reason.

Account No	Name of the Borrowers and Co-Borrowers	Total Loan Outstanding (in INR) / as on	Demand Notice Date
0045SB ML02900	1. Mr./Mrs. Sadik Basha 2. Mr./Mrs. Salma M 3. Mr./Mrs. Afsar Basha	Rs. 12,29,507.32/- 30-01-2026	15-03-2026
Description of the Secured Asset: Measuring: East West-4.26 Mtr. X North South -10.66 Mtr. 45.41 Sq. Mtrs. With House 45.52 Sq. Mtrs. **Boundaries:** North: Edga Maidhana, South: Municipal Road, East: Property Of Nageen Taj, West: Property Of Kasagi			
0060SB ML00542	1. Mr./Mrs. Tejeshwar An 2. Mr./Mrs. Mangalagowri B 3. Mr./Mrs. Jayashree V	Rs. 16,89,687.63/- 30-01-2026	15-03-2026
Description of the Secured Asset: Site No.8 Katha No. 27/24-1/8, Bilwaradahalli Village, Anekal Taluk Bangalore, 1200 Sq.Ft. **Boundaries:** North: Site No.9, South: Road, East: Site No. 4, West: Road.			
0069SB ML02451	1. Mr./Mrs. Manjula S 2. Mr./Mrs. Shivanna Shetty	Rs. 4,41,984.17/- 30-01-2026	15-03-2026
Description of the Secured Asset: Site Measuring East To West -7.40 Meters And North To South-5.48 Meters. **Boundaries:** North: House Of Thimmappa, South: House Of Somachari, East: Road, West: House Of Sardar.			
0076SB ML03666	1. Mr./Mrs. Mahamad Aali 2. Mr./Mrs. Dilshada Mahamadaaali	Rs. 17,03,306.51/- 30-01-2026	15-03-2026
Description of the Secured Asset: Area Of The Plot 600 Sq. Feet With Rcc House **Boundaries:** North: Bibijan Property, South: Habeeb Property, East: House Of Beluramma Mother Of Rajanna, West: Municipal Road.			
0069SB ML02508	1. Mr./Mrs. Gangadhara G 2. Mr./Mrs. Sumithra G	Rs. 4,27,488.71/- 30-01-2026	15-03-2026
Description of the Secured Asset: Measuring 139.35 Sq. Meters Including Rcc House. **Boundaries:** North: Road, South: Road, East: Doddabhovi, West: Lalithamma.			

Notice, is therefore given to the Borrowers/Co-Borrowers, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount against the respective Borrower/Co-Borrower, within 60 days of publication of this notices the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective Loan account as on the date. It is made clear thatif the aggregate amount together with further interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, Arcil shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described. Steps are also being taken for service of notice in other manners as prescribed under the Act and the rules made hereunder.

Sd/- Authorized Officer
Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited.
Arcil - Trust -2026 - 024

Place: Bangalore
Date: 11-05-2026

₹14,231 CR Foreign investors have withdrawn from domestic equities market so far this month, driven by global macroeconomic uncertainties

Dubai's realty mkt may take 20% hit in 2026

Builders are offering discounts to generate funds for project completion, says Danube Group's Anis Sajan

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

DUBAI'S real estate market may take 20% hit in calendar year 2026 due to geopolitical tensions in West Asia but will bounce back strongly on the back of robust fundamentals, said Anis Sajan, vice-chairman of Danube Group, one of the United Arab Emirates' (UAE's) largest realty companies. Sajan set aside rumours that property prices have seen a steep decline following the turmoil in the region.

"Yes, sales have taken a hit since tensions broke out in the region. Last year, Dubai's real estate market grew about 20%. This year (2026), I expect a 20% degrowth," Sajan told TNIE in an interaction. He added, "Buyers have gone into wait-and-watch mode.

The number of units we used to sell out in one month now takes us three months. Going forward, our focus will be on completing existing projects and selling them off, rather than launching one after another."

Dubai's real estate market has shown significant growth over the last decade, recovering from a downturn in the mid-2010s and Covid pandemic to achieve record transaction volumes and values, driven by investor influx and policy support. Official data from the Dubai Land Department (DLD) and related reports highlight surges in prices, sales and investments.

Dubai's real estate sector achieved its strongest performance to date in 2025, with over 270,000 transactions worth AED 917 billion ($250 billion), up 20% year on year.

Sajan stated that reputed builders have seen no major price corrections, though distress selling has emerged in the secondary market.

Yes, sales have taken a hit since tensions broke out in the region. Last year, Dubai's real estate market grew about 20%. This year (2026), I expect a 20% degrowth

Anis Sajan, vice-chairman, Danube Group

He added that cash-strapped builders are offering discounts to generate funds for project completion and bank obligations.

"The 7-8% annual price rises we used to see are not happening now. Prices remain stable for the moment. Top builders are offering incentives and launching new projects to drive sales and sustain momentum," said Sajan. Danube Properties recently launched Greenz By Danube, its first large-scale integrated community featuring premium townhouses and villas, marking a major milestone in its expansion into master-planned developments, with prices starting at AED 3.5 million.

Sajan dismissed reports that Indian buyers are fleeing Dubai's property market as "completely misleading." "For many developers, including Danube, Indians remain one of our biggest buyer bases. They're not leaving Dubai-they see it as the safest place with all global amenities. High rental yields of 6-10% and property price appreciation continue to attract them," he said.

Sajan said a big concern for developers in recent months has been a 20% surge in building material prices which is expected to impact their bottom line by 1-1.5%.

"However, for Danube's material business, April was the best month as there have been so many launches and everyone needs material to building. We recorded our highest sales and highest profit for the building material business last month," said Sajan.

IN CONVERSATION

MIHIR KUMAR
Chief executive officer, Government e-Marketplace

'We didn't allow over 10.5 lakh listings due to overpricing concerns'

THE Government e-Marketplace (GeM) achieved a cumulative Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) of ₹18.4 lakh crore in 2025–26. In an interview with *TNIE's* **Pushpita Dey**, **Mihir Kumar,** chief executive officer (CEO) of Government e-Marketplace, spoke about the launch of foreign bidding and the measures being taken to ensure fair pricing on the portal. Edited **excerpts**:

How does GeM benchmark prices in real time, and why did that mechanism not prevent potential overpricing?
For cases that have already been concluded and where contracts have materialised, the scope is limited to punitive action by the buyer. Each case is unique, so it is difficult to generalise. One broad point is that prices on the portal are dynamic and keep changing.

If a buyer feels that prices on GeM are high — even hypothetically — tools are available to assess them. The Business Intelligence (BI) tool provides historical price trends over the past six months, including the number of contracts awarded and the prices at which they were awarded.

Price reasonability is the responsibility of the buyer. If a price appears excessive, the buyer should pause the procurement process and bring it to our notice, rather than proceeding with the purchase. Had such concerns been flagged earlier, we could have examined them. We also take proactive steps — this year alone, we blocked over 10.5 lakh listings, primarily due to concerns over overpricing. Prices on GeM should not become outliers compared with the broader market.

If a buyer feels prices on GeM are high, they have tools available. The business intelligence tool provides historical price trends for past six months, including how many contracts were awarded and at what prices. This info is also visible in catalogue, so buyers are not without reference points

Why has the procurement share of the Ministry of Coal and Coal India declined, and which other ministries or CPSEs have seen a rise in their share this year?
The maximum impact has been in the coal sector, though there are a few other areas where we have seen some decline. By and large, other CPSEs have performed better — power sector entities have improved, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has remained broadly stable, and Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has shown better performance.

The key factor is the scale of Coal India. Its procurement dropped from ₹2 lakh crore to about ₹82,000 crore — a decline of about ₹1.2 lakh crore. Given Coal India's significantly larger base compared with other CPSEs, this has had a disproportionate impact on the overall numbers. Among CPSEs, Coal India leads by a wide margin, typically conducting business in the range of ₹80,000 crore to ₹1 lakh crore, while entities such as NTPC operate in the ₹17,000–25,000 crore range. The high base and the subsequent decline has driven the drop.

In which sectors you expect the maximum participation from foreign bidders, now that GeM has opened up to them?
We will examine global tenders floated by various ministries on the CPPP portal to gain insights. Bidding will not be limited to countries with which India has free trade agreements (FTAs); companies from other countries will also be allowed to participate. As of now, we have not yet seen any global tender come onto the platform, though the functionality is fully operational.

We will be driving this initiative in consultation with buyers, since they have not yet tested this functionality on the portal. We will need to engage with and convince them to use it.

What is the current status of the disputes raised by Bihar (on pricing concerns) and Andhra Pradesh (on Chromebook procurement), and how is GeM addressing these issues?
In the case of Andhra Pradesh, the Chromebook procurement has been re-tendered, so that issue has been addressed. As for the Bihar case, it has been referred for investigation. While I may not recall the exact specifics, such cases involve pricing distortions arising from additional requirements introduced by the buyer. The Bihar case pertains to price parity, and the investigation is still ongoing.

MONEY-WISE

SHOULD YOU INVEST VIA 'SMALLCASE'?

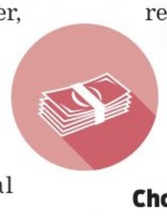
FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

MANY people use 'Smallcase' for their investing. I do not! What is SMALLCASE? 'Smallcase' is a platform for thematic and strategy-based portfolio investing. It lets retail investors buy "smallcases"— baskets (model portfolios) of stocks built around a specific idea, theme, sector, or investment strategy.

What Is a Smallcase?

- **Grouped shares based on theme:** Electric vehicles, rural demand, pharma tracker, momentum strategies, dividend growth, etc.
- Each smallcase is created and managed by investment professionals using rule-based criteria (e.g., financial health).
- Unlike buying individual stocks, you invest in a ready-made diversified basket (say 20 shares)



How Does Smallcase Investing Work?

- Connect your existing demat/broker account.
- Select a smallcase portfolio.
- The shares are bought directly into your demat account.
- Managers send periodic rebalance updates (e.g., add/remove stocks or adjust weights). You have choice of whether to act.
- Track performance in real-time

Key features:

- Direct ownership and high, control - you have a choice of whether to make changes.
- Thematic/strategy focus.
- Minimum investment varies (₹5,000–₹20,000+ depending on basket and current prices).

Smallcase OR Mutual Funds?

- Choose smallcase if:
- You want full control and transparency.
- You like thematic investing (e.g., EV, green energy, rural India).
- You're comfortable with involvement (approving rebalances).
- You prefer direct ownership and lower ongoing costs.
- You have a demat account and okay with stock-market volatility.

Choose mutual funds if:

- You want simplicity.
- You want a product which is well regulated – Board of Trustees, Board of directors, Managing directors, Compliance officers etc.
- You prefer broad diversification and professional management with minimal effort.
- You're a beginner or investing small amounts via SIP.
- You want to avoid transaction taxes on internal rebalancing.

CAVEAT: This is purely academic. This is not investment advice. I have never used a Smalcase product, but I do invest in Mutual funds.

MONEY MATTERS

HOW SIMPLICITY HELPS IN FINANCIAL PLANNING

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

AS you celebrated Mother's Day, most of you celebrated your hero. The heroism of moms stems from many of the things they do for us as children and continues even after we grow up. Those of us privileged to have witnessed that care and nurturing will also remember the simplicity.

She made small sacrifices to provide for you. Her ability to manage multiple things ensures that you do not feel inadequate. Those in their 40s and 50s would remember their parents and their frugality much more than those in their 30s and 20s. With limited access to information, parents relied on simple saving and investment habits. They put their hard-earned money into things they understood. Starting with savings, they put money aside in envelopes or other containers to help them remember upcoming payments. That ensured that none of the income was spent in one go. Your spending habits are as important as your savings and investments for long-term investing. Your mother showed you the way to save simply.

When it comes to investing, they allocated any surplus money towards real estate and gold. More than three-quarters of the households own property or gold, according to most surveys and their latest updates. Parents in the 1980s started investing in fixed deposits, and in the 1990s, in more sophisticated investments in the stock market. Their preferences towards savings and investing were based on their knowledge.

Modern parents have inherited their parents' frugality. However, their approach to saving, investing and spending is spoilt for choice. There are too many avenues to spend money.

Credit cards enable you to spend tomorrow's money today. You can buy things you need or do not need today using personal loans or credit cards. Unlike your parents' way of allocating expenses, you are not worried about putting physical money into envelopes or other places in the house. You have mostly automated your payments and spend digitally far more efficiently than your parents.

That holds if you have a sustainable income. The moment your income wobbles, you stare at a debt trap.

On the investment side, the presence of several options for mutual fund schemes, equity shares, stockbroking apps, wealth managers and their mobile outreach can only confuse you. Additionally, there are multiple options for insurance and other banking-related services. If you try to analyse every option, you will reach 'analysis paralysis'. Making investment decisions every day can lead to decision fatigue. To avoid that, you need to take help from a professional advisor. Make your meeting with your advisor meaningful by suggesting a simple portfolio structure. Owning too many stocks or mutual fund schemes could lead to over-diversification. You could struggle to keep track of your investments.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

When it comes to insurance, it is important to understand that it is meant for protection, not as an investment product. Unit-linked insurance plans and other structured products could increase complexity in your investment portfolio. Choosing too many endowment or money-back policies instead of simple term insurance is another thing you should be careful about. In the 1990s, an insurance agent was the first intermediary who probably spoke to you about savings and investments.

However, it is a different world today. You can minimise the cost of your investments and insurance by choosing the right products or investment plans, and by taking professional advice online or engaging a financial planner. For example, using direct plans of mutual funds can reduce the cost of your long-term investment through systematic investment plans if you know the schemes you wish to invest in, especially in equity.

A simple portfolio of a few mutual fund schemes gives you access to a combination of assets that generate a return based on your ability to take risks. That is essentially based on your confidence in your income.

AI job cuts fail to deliver higher returns

PADMINI DHRUVARAJ @ Bengaluru

AI-related workforce cuts are failing to deliver stronger returns on investment, as per analysts, even as technology companies and IT services firms spend billions on AI infrastructure while cutting thousands of jobs to improve profitability.

A recent Gartner survey of 350 business executives at organisations with annual revenue of at least $1 billion found that nearly 80% of companies piloting or deploying autonomous business tools had reduced their workforce. However, job-cut rates were almost identical among organisations reporting strong returns and those reporting modest gains or negative outcomes.

"Many CEOs turn to layoffs to demonstrate quick AI returns; however, this disposition is misplaced," said Helen Poitevin, VP Analyst at Gartner.

Spending on AI systems to reach $376 bn in 2027: Study

The findings come as spending on AI systems rises sharply worldwide. Gartner forecasts spending on AI agent software will grow from $86.4 billion in 2025 to $206.5 billion in 2026, before reaching $376.3 billion in 2027

"Workforce reductions may create budget room, but they do not create return. Organisations that improve ROI are not those that eliminate the need for people, but those that amplify them by aggressively investing more in skills, roles and operating models that allow humans to guide and scale autonomous systems."

The findings come as spending on AI systems rises sharply worldwide. Gartner forecasts spending on AI agent software will grow from $86.4 billion in 2025 to $206.5 billion in 2026, before reaching $376.3 billion in 2027.

At the same time, layoffs across the technology sector continue to rise. Layoffs.fyi estimates that more than 101,550 employees across 120 technology companies have lost their jobs in 2026 alone.

"The data shows layoffs are not a reliable indicator of AI success," said a lead analyst at a domestic broking firm. "Companies generating better returns are usually the ones investing in workforce adaptation, process redesign and AI integration rather than simply reducing headcount."

Several major companies have paired large AI investments with workforce restructuring programmes.

Private capex sees revival, jumps 67% to ₹7.7 lakh crore in September 2025

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

PRIVATE capital expenditure surged 67% YoY to ₹7.7 lakh crore in September 2025, signalling a broad-based revival in investment cycle, industry body Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) said on Sunday while unveiling a five-point action plan for industry to help cushion the economy against the fallout of the West Asia crisis.

As per CII's analysis of nearly 1,200 companies from the CMIE Prowess database, private sector investment — measured through annual changes in net fixed assets and capital work-in-progress rose from ₹4.6 lakh crore in September 2024 to ₹7.7 lakh crore a year later.

Manufacturing accounted for half of private capex at ₹3.8 lakh crore, led by metals, automobiles and chemicals, while services contributed ₹3.1 lakh crore, driven by trading, communications and IT/ITeS sectors.

Private enterprise is committing capital at scale, and across sectors, in a manner not seen in well over a decade

Chandrajit Banerjee, DG, CII

CII said complementary indicators pointed to strengthening investment momentum. Capacity utilisation in manufacturing rose to 75.6% in Q3FY26 from 74.3% in the preceding quarter, while order books grew 10.3% YoY. Bank credit growth rose to 14% in the second half of FY26 as against 10% in H1. "67% jump in private capex to ₹7.7 lakh crore is the most important signal yet India's investment cycle has decicisively turned," said CII DG Chandrajit Banerjee.

"With capacity utilisation hardening to 75.6%, order books expanding at over 10% YoY and bank credit growth close to 14% in the second half of FY26, private enterprise is committing capital at scale, and across sectors, in a manner not seen in well over a decade," he added.

Deepika leads recurve team to WC gold

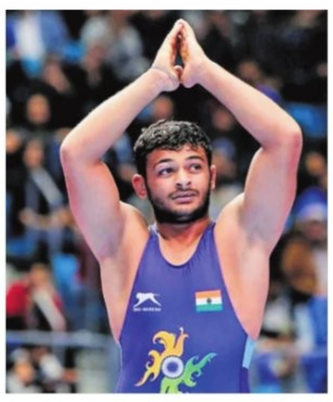
The Indian trio of Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat and teenager Kumkum Mohod held their nerve in a tense shoot-off to beat home favourites China and clinch the women's recurve team gold medal at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Shanghai on Sunday. In the final, India edged China 5-4 (28-26) in the shoot-off after the four-set regulation ended 4-4.

Deepak storms into final, keeps comeback hopes alive

FIROZ MIRZA @ Nandini Nagar (Gonda

NOT many wrestlers can achieve the feats which Deepak Punia (86kg) achieved when he burst onto the scene. He clinched medals at the cadet, junior and senior World Championships with the first two being gold. 2019 turned out to be a breakthrough year for him as he became the first Indian wrestler in 18 years to win the junior World Championships gold. He followed it up with a silver at the senior worlds and that medal also helped him qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. A favourite to win the medal at the Games, Punia missed out on a bronze by a whisker.

Punia then went on to win medals at the Yasar Dogu Ranking Series and continental championships in 2022 and continued the winning streak by bagging a gold and a silver at the 2023 Commonwealth and Asian Games respectively. Punia, however, hit a prolonged lean patch the very next year and even failed to qualify for the 2024 Paris Games. The protest launched by renowned wrestlers against former Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh a year before did not help his cause either. He attempted to make a comeback last year and won a silver medal each at the Senior Asian Championships and Ulaanbaatar Open Ranking Series but a medal at the World Championships eluded him.



Deepak Punia | FILE PHOTO

With him turning 27 on May 19, the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games could turn out to be his last. What added to his woes was his inability to compete at the senior national championships, Federation Cup and a few other specified events made mandatory by the WFI to qualify for the national camps. The federation's eligibility criteria also meant he was rendered ineligible for the selection trials held to pick the national team for the 2026 Asian Championships held in March.

With time running out, Punia was left with no option than to compete at the Senior Open Ranking Tournament, which began at the Nandini Nagar, Gonda (Uttar Pradesh) on Sunday and bring himself back into contention for a place in the Indian team. Incidentally, the same tournament was halted midway at the same venue three years ago following wrestlers' protest of which Punia was also a part.

Competing in the 92kg weight category, Punia won four bouts to progress into the final and assure himself of a medal. It could pave the way for return of the 2019 worlds silver medalist into the national team as the medallists from the event would gain eligibility to compete at the selection trials scheduled to pick the teams for the 2026 World Championships and Commonwealth Championships.

His opponents were no match for him as Punia won the first bout 10-0 beating Haryana's Rahul. Punia then outclassed Sachin Kumar, also from Haryana, 11-0 before winning the next bout as his next opponent Abhishek (Delhi) got injured. Haryana's Rahul Hooda was next in the line and Punia pinned him to storm into the semifinal. The senior wrestler then overwhelmed Raja from Haryana 11-0 to make it to the summit clash.

URVIL'S RECORD KNOCK LIFTS CSK

With 8 sixes in 23 balls, CSK batters' swashbuckling innings helps team beat LSG by 5 wkts

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

URVIL PATEL'S blitzkrieg — where he made 65 in just 23 balls — and Jamie Overton's 3/36 propelled Chennai Super Kings to beat Lucknow Super Giants by five wickets in the IPL on Sunday evening at the MA Chidambaram stadium.

In a contest that went till the final over, it was the 27-year-old who stole the show with a record-equalling 13-ball half-century as he rained sixes at Chepauk. The total of 204 did not look out of reach, despite the lull in the middle-overs, because of the start from Sanju Samson and Ruturaj Gaikwad before Urvil took over.

Coming in at No 3, Urvil had been playing cameos in recent games but this time he took it further. He started with three consecutive sixes of Avesh Khan before smashing three sixes and a four off Digvesh Rathi. At one point, it looked like he could actually break the 12-ball record barrier — Yuvraj Singh's 12-ball fifty in 2007 T20 World Cup — but that did not happen as Urvil eventually reached the milestone in 13 deliveries, equalling Yashasvi Jaiswal's record. By the time he got out, CSK was already 126/2 in 9.2 overs, and had ample time to adapt and get across the line.

CSK skipper Gaikwad was a relieved man after the win and praised his bowlers for the effort. "Yes (got too close), but at the end, chasing 200, when you start the innings, it will always go to the 18th or the 19th or the 20th over. We started off really well in the powerplay, but it was a bit tacky for a new batter to just go in and play the shots. But it's important that we got the job done. It's been a while since we chased 200, so good to chase it," said an elated Ruturaj after the match.

Urvil Patel | BCCI

Earlier in the afternoon, CSK was at the receiving end of a similar counterattack when Josh Inglis smashed 85 from just 33 balls to set up the LSG innings. Inglis scored effortlessly at the expense of Akeal Hosein who opened the attack with Anshul Kamboj. Mukesh Chaudhary too was not spared. Inglis chose the right ball to attack and also his shot selection was spot on as he raced to his 40s in just 14 balls. Later, Inglis used his feet well, got to the pitch of the ball and lofted it inside out off Akeal to get his fifty. Gaikwad and CSK had no answers until much later as he admitted after the match. "Huge credit and hats off to Josh. I think he played some amazing shots, which we actually didn't have any answer to and you can't quite plan for it or you can't quite set field for it. But after the first time-out, Sanju just came in and he said, if we have it in us, we have to make a comeback here and try and restrict them as low as possible. So whatever around 220, it was still fine. So I think that just pumped us up, everyone."

Inglis fell shortly after to Overton and CSK kept LSG in check in the second half of the innings, restricting them to 203/8. With the win, CSK moved to fifth place in the table and kept their play-off hopes alive. They need two wins from three games, one of which is an away contest against the same opponent in Lucknow, to comfortably finish in top four.

Brief scores: Lucknow Super Giants 203/8 in 20 ovs (Josh Inglis 85, Shahbaz Ahmed 43 not out; Jamie Overton 3/36, Anshul Kamboj 2/47) **lost to** Chennai Super Kings 208/5 in 19.2 ovs (Urvil Patel 65, Ruturaj Gaikwad 42; Digvesh Rathi 2/45).

POINTS TABLE

Team	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
RCB	11	7	4	14	1.113
SRH	11	7	4	14	0.737
GT	11	7	4	14	0.228
PBKS	10	6	3	13	0.571
CSK	11	6	5	12	0.185
RR	11	6	5	12	0.82
KKR	10	4	5	9	-0.16
DC	11	4	7	8	-1.15
MI	11	3	8	6	-0.58
LSG	11	3	8	6	-0.9

Huge Haryana turnout in national ranking meet

FIROZ MIRZA @ Nandini Nagar (Gonda)

IT was in 2018 that the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) decided to put stringent measures in place to curb the menace of fake birth certificates and domiciles. The federation started the drive with the U15 age-group wrestlers and what followed next shocked them as well. A lot of upcoming wrestlers were found to be overaged. It was also revealed that most of them had also obtained forged documents to change their domiciles.

Gradually, the WFI extended it to all age groups, including seniors. Strict vigil and intense investigation found that quite a few wrestlers, mostly from Haryana, had been procuring birth certificates and domiciles from Begampur in Narela Zone and Suleman Nagar of Rohini Zone in New Delhi.

The WFI also made it mandatory for wrestlers to submit their Aadhaar cards to participate in the national tournaments. By 2020, the federation started tightening the noose on the wrestlers, who were representing states other than of their birth. The drive started bearing the fruits with 700-plus wrestlers being caught in the last few months for allegedly obtaining birth certificates from New Delhi. A majority of them were born in Haryana. They apparently decided to move to Delhi due to intense competition in their native state.

"The WFI didn't ban these wrestlers. Instead, we asked them to return to their native state," a WFI official told this daily. And the after-effects of the drive was on full display here at Nandini Nagar, Gonda (Uttar Pradesh) on the inaugural day of the 2026 Senior National Ranking Tournament.

Around 590 wrestlers took part in the men's freestyle competitions on Day 1 and nearly 470 among them were from Haryana. A closer look at a few weight categories made the picture clearer. In the 70kg weight category, around 45 out of 81 participants were from Haryana, the state considered the hub of Indian wrestling. As many as eight of them were from Delhi. Similarly, the 65kg weight division witnessed participation from around 70 grapplers and 40 of them from Haryana.

"The stiff competition in Haryana forces these wrestlers to move to other states where they can get ample opportunities to compete in the WFI-recognised tournaments. But it also deprives natives of that particular state from competing. The campaign started by the WFI not only prevented the exodus of wrestlers from Haryana but also helped native wrestlers from lesser-known states to compete in the national events," added the source.

With only one wrestler allowed to compete in each weight category at the marquee domestic events like the senior national championships and Federation Cup, those who were made to return to Haryana by the WFI could not make it to the state team for such events. The ranking series gave them a platform to showcase their skills and they apparently grabbed the opportunity with both hands.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

BHUVI SWINGS IT BENGALURU'S WAY

KEY TEST

Against a struggling Delhi, Punjab need a win. A look...

Eyes on Shreyas

For a team that was in top-two till Saturday, PBKS have lost three on the trot. Now, all eyes will be on skipper Shreyas Iyer and how he leads the side from hereon with NRR in picture.

Delhi seek revival

After a good start to the season, Delhi have blown hot and cold. And it has shown in the way they have moved down the table. With playoff hopes all but over, they have revamp the line-up.

PBKS vs DC, Dharamsala

Live on Star Sports and JioHotstar, 7.30PM

Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Virat Kohli celebrate | BCCI

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Raipur

BOWLERS like Bhuvneshwar Kumar are endangered species. Doesn't have high pace. Isn't tall enough to possess high release. And is usually frontloaded so there's always going to be an element of predictability.

What he does have, though, is the ability to hang it outside off stump on a length before getting the ball to shape away or move back in a fraction. He challenges both edges to both batting types and seldom loses discipline. It's how he has remained relevant in this era of turbocharged batting units smashing down barriers.

Against Lucknow Super Giants on Thursday, he became the first frontline seamer in IPL history to feature in 200 games. On Sunday, he put out a demonstration as to how he has continued to thrive like fine wine. After his 11th game of the season came to an end at a heaving Stadium in Raipur, the 36-year-old had returned figures of four for 26. The Purple Cap leader with 21 scalps while giving away an average of 30 runs across four overs, he has been utopian. On Sunday, at their 'home away from home' in Raipur, they were at it again thanks to one of the evergreen men of Indian cricket. All it took was 7 balls, some movement off the deck and a couple of edges as he finished 3/28 in three overs. MI recovered to post 166 but Krunal Pandya (73) and Kumar knocked them out.

Brief scores: MI 166/7 in 20 ovs (Tilak 57; Kumar 4/23) **lost to** RCB 167/8 in 20 ovs (Krunal 73, Bhuvneshwar 7 n.o (2 balls)).

Chennaiyin suffer 1-4 defeat vs NorthEast

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

LALDINLIANA Renthlei's first-ever Indian Super League goal proved to be a mere consolation as Chennaiyin FC slumped to 1-4 defeat against NorthEast United in Guwahati on Sunday.

Spanish forward Jairo scored a double while Renthlei also scored an own goal to add to NorthEast's tally. Substitute Lalbiakdika Vanlalvunga made it a memorable outing for the home side with the fourth goal in the 90th minute. This was NorthEast's third win of the season. For Chennaiyin, who lie second from bottom in the points table, this was their seventh defeat of the season.

Win for Blasters

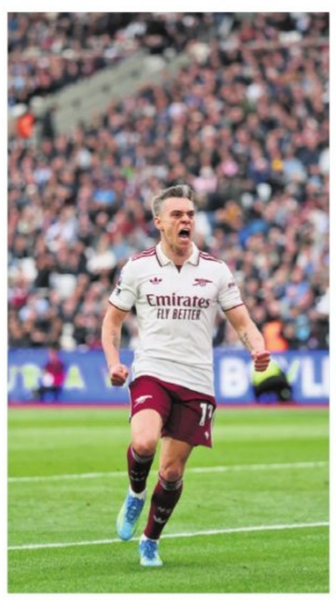
Kerala Blasters FC, meanwhile, posted their fourth win of the season as they beat Mohammedan SC 3-1 in Kochi. Franchu, Víctor Bertomeu and substitute Sreekuttan MS were the goalscorers for Blasters. With 14 points, Blasters climbed to eighth spot in the points table.

EXPRESS READ

Neeru & Vivaan win trap mixed team bronze

NEW DELHI: Neeru Dhanda and Vivaan Kapoor won a bronze medal in the trap mixed team event at the ISSF World Cup Shotgun in Almaty, Kazakhstan on Sunday. The medal was the first ISSF WC podium finish for Neeru and Vivaan in the Olympic event and India's second since mixed team trap was added to the Olympic programme last year.

EPL: Massive three points for Arsenal



Arsenal's Leandro Trossard celebrates after scoring on Sunday | AP

AGENCIES @ London

LEANDRO Trossard scored in the nick of time (84th minute) as Arsenal took a huge step towards the Premier League crown by beating West Ham United 1-0 at the London Stadium on Sunday.

With this win, Arsenal took a five-point lead over second-placed Manchester City, who had beaten Brentford 3-0 on Saturday. Arsenal have 79 points after 36 games while Man City have 74 after 35 games. There were some tense towards the dying seconds as West Ham's goal was ruled out by VAR.

Meanwhile, Aston Villa blew the chance to close in on Champions League football next season with a 2-2 draw at already-relegated Burnley.

Villa booked their place in the Europa League final on Thursday with a 4-0 demolition of Nottingham Forest.

But Unai Emery's men suffered a European hangover at Turf Moor. Villa extend their lead over sixth-placed Bournemouth to four points and move six ahead of Brighton in the battle for Champions League qualification.

However, they face a tough end to the campaign with matches against Liverpool and Manchester City either side of the final against Freiburg in Istanbul. Jaidon Anthony punished a slow Villa start to put Burnley in front after Emi Martinez spilled Lesley Ugochukwu's shot. Ross Barkley headed the visitors level from a corner before half-time. Ollie Watkins then pounced on a long punt forward by Martinez to put Villa in front and headed up to fourth in the table.

Burnley, though, hit back to avoid a sixth consecutive defeat.

Zian Flemming fired home from Hannibal Mejbri's inventive flick to keep the fight for the top five alive. Everton's bid for a place in Europe next season suffered from again failing to hold onto a lead in a 2-2 draw at Crystal Palace.

STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION

Joy and relief for hurdler Shirse after blazing run in national series

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Chennai

IN the moments leading up to the swearing-in ceremony at the adjacent Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium – where chief minister designate C Joseph Vijay was scheduled to take oath in front of an ecstatic crowd on Sunday – the outdoor stadium, largely quiet in the morning, heard a loud roar.

"We're back!, first is back!," cried men's 110m hurdles national record holder Tejas Shirse after a photo-finish with Reliance teammate Krishik M. He clocked 13.43 seconds in Final D of the men's 110m at the Indian Open Athletics Series, only two tenths slower than his national record which was posted in May, 2024.

With the latest performance, he breached the qualification mark (13.63s) for the Asian Games, scheduled to be held in Japan later this year. However, his selection for the Asiad would be decided after June's Senior Inter-state meet in Bhubaneswar.

His wait for the timings to show on the screen was worth it. After the loud celebration, Shirse, trying to recover from the run, explained how the last few months have been difficult. Shirse took part in two World Athletics Silver-level indoor meets in Europe in January 2026, before suffering an ankle injury. Shirse has had scores of injuries and has dealt well with both the physical and mental difficulties that come along with it. However, this injury, he says, was the most difficult to recover from.

Tejas Shirse after his run on Sunday | AFI

Tough outing for Sreeshankar

M Sreeshankar had to battle the hot, evening sun here to jump 8.04m. The 27-year-old found it difficult to go past 8.10m, as three of his six attempts were deemed illegal. "In one of the jumps, I had the slightest of touches on the foul board. But the good thing is I was able to jump around 8.30m on such attempts (...)." He fulfilled the AFI's mandate of taking part in two national-level competitions before the Federation meet in Ranchi.

"Those four months were very difficult. All that time, I was just thinking about giving up and all. I have fought my hardest battle during this injury because I went to Europe and my performance was really bad because I was fighting with an injury. Due to that, it was really difficult for me to be in my right headspace," he told this daily after his run. "It was something unexpected. I was running in very good shape and that broke my momentum. I was running well within 13.3 seconds. But, it was a low blow."

What stood out from his assessment of the last few months is what happened right after he recovered from injury. "I just trained for three weeks. In that given time, if I can do a 13.43, that is great for me because I know the only way from here is forward. I even twisted my ankle during warm-up," he explained.

Those at the Reliance Foundation were the ones who helped him battle the pangs of injury.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Gukesh finishes sixth; Niemann triumphs

WARSAW: World champion D Gukesh had to be content with a sixth-place finish while Hans Niemann of the United States kept his nerves towards the end to win the Super rapid and blitz, a part of the Grand Chess Tour. Gukesh ended his campaign with 17 points out of a possible 36 that included 9 rapid and 18 blitz games.

Asian U15 C'ships: Six boxers enter final

TASHKENT: India's U-15 boys delivered a strong showing in the semifinals of the Asian Boxing U15 Championships, with six pugilists advancing to the finals and seven others settling for bronze here. Yash Kumar (33kg), Sastha Vasanth Ashok Kumar (37kg) and Samir Bohra (43kg) were among those who won their bouts to enter the final.

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EDUCATION EXPRESS
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UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS

JEE ADVANCED	ICAI CA FOUNDATION	ICAI CA INTER GROUP 2
Date: May 16, 2026	Date: May 14, 16, 18, 2026	Date: May 11, 13, 15, 2026

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UPSC CIVIL SERVICES

The Road to Bureaucracy

YECHURI SASHIKANTH

THE Civil Services Examination (CSE) is the gateway to administrative services such as the IAS, IPS, and IFS. Conducted annually by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), the exam is spread across three stages and usually runs over much of the year.

How the exam works

Each stage of the UPSC CSE tests a different set of skills, from conceptual clarity and factual awareness to analytical ability and expression. The objective-type Preliminary Examination acts as a screening test. It has two papers, General Studies and the Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT), with each paper carrying 200 marks. CSAT is qualifying in nature, with minimum qualifying marks fixed at 33%. Candidates who clear the Preliminary Examination are eligible to appear for the Civil Services (Main) Examination. The Mains examination consists of nine conventional essay-type papers, with 1,750 marks counted for merit. Candidates who qualify in Mains are called for the Personality Test, which carries 275 marks. The final merit list is prepared on the basis of Mains and Personality Test marks.

duty calls

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination:** May 24, 2026
- **Civil Services (Main) Examination:** Begins August 21, 2026
- **Interview/ Personality Test:** To be notified later

How to approach the exam

Success in the UPSC Civil Services Examination depends on understanding the nature of the exam. Candidates need consistency more than bursts of intensity. Regular revision, answer writing, and the ability to connect issues analytically can help aspirants across both the written examination and the Personality Test.

In the final stretch before the Prelims, aspirants should focus on revision rather than starting new topics. Solving previous years' papers, taking mock tests, working on accuracy, and staying precise with current affairs can help candidates manage both the content load and negative marking. A balanced focus across key subjects such as polity, economy, geography, history, environment, and current affairs remains important.

HOW MARKS ARE DIVIDED

Stage	Papers	Marks
Preliminary	General Studies Paper	200
	Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT)	200 (qualifying)
Mains	9 papers	1750
Interview	Personality Test	275
Final Merit	Mains + Interview	2025

GROWING UP MISUNDERSTOOD

Despite increased awareness and support, many children with developmental disabilities in India are growing up in environments not built for them

It's difficult for children with developmental disabilities to receive the support they need, as they're going against a mythical normal.

Dr Vibha Krishnamurthy, paediatrician

THE 92% GAP

Inclusive education depends on trained support. Yet, nearly 92% of Indian schools lack a dedicated special educator on campus.

KARTHIKEYA S

FEELING slower than peers, struggling to focus, missing social cues, or being labelled lazy and stubborn by the adults around them is a common experience for many Indian children with "invisible" developmental disabilities. These include conditions such as autism, ADHD, and learning disorders. Children with more visible disabilities, like Down syndrome or cerebral palsy, often face a different but equally isolating reality of exclusion, staring, and infantilisation. However, there seems to be a gradual shift in understanding developmental disabilities in India.

A shifting legal and scientific landscape

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, expanded the list of disabilities from 7 to 21 to include Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and learning-specific disabilities. The Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, also mandates free and compulsory education for children with developmental disabilities aged 6–14.

Paediatricians and disability rights advocates credit this to evolving understanding of developmental disabilities and neurology. "Today, neuroscience tells us that developmental disabilities in children are often complex inherited conditions. New tools like Whole Exome Sequencing have become vital in detecting developmental disabilities that would otherwise go undiagnosed," says Dr Vibha Krishnamurthy, developmental paediatrician and advocate for children with developmental disabilities.

She adds that perspectives shared by people with disabilities, along with better media representation, have also contributed to this shift. This increased awareness is slowly influencing disability care and education policy, with greater emphasis on early intervention and support rather than trying to "fix" neurodevelopmental conditions. India had over 367 functional District Early Intervention Centres (DEIC) and 14 Cross-Disability Early Intervention Centres (CDEIC) as of 2023.

Care that fails to reach the last mile

Experts note that awareness and care delivery remain scarce, and often depend heavily on a family's social and economic circumstances. A 2017 study from western Madhya Pradesh published in the National Journal of Community Medicine highlighted how delayed diagnosis of developmental disorders often coexisted with financial hardship and limited parental awareness.

mind gap

Dr Vibha explains that parents from low-income and marginalised communities often cannot act as full-time caregivers because of financial constraints. "You cannot ask a parent who depends on daily wages to bring their child to therapy and lose a day's income," she states. She adds that care for children with developmental disorders must also account for "risk factors" outside biology, including caste, class, gender, poverty, and exposure to conflict.

"With these factors present, last-mile care delivery for such children still has a long way to go," she notes.

Gaps in school settings

The problem also exists in educational spaces. According to a 2025 review of UDISE+, NAS, UNESCO, and UNICEF reports published in the Journal of Education, Society and Behavioural Science, less than 35% of teachers have received training in inclusive education. UDISE+ data also shows that only about 55% of schools had barrier-free infrastructure such as ramps and handrails, while over one lakh schools continued to function with a single teacher.

Dr Vibha says many school environments still lack the support systems needed for children with developmental disabilities. "I've had to advise several of my patients' parents to homeschool their kids if they had the means, because their particular school environments were detrimental to their mental health," she says. She suggests establishing networks of schools for joint sensitivity training, workshops, and sharing inclusive practices.

Rethinking disability itself

For parents, Dr Vibha recommends forming support networks with other families to exchange notes, gain awareness about disability rights, and access resources.

She adds that NGOs can also support parents from marginalised communities by helping them apply for government social security schemes or obtain Unique Disability ID (UDID) Cards.

"Early intervention looks different for every child. Sometimes, it could be ensuring that their parents have ration cards," she states. "Several of these conditions are considered disabilities in environments not designed to include children who are born with them," she explains, adding that disability care often involves fighting a 'mythical normal.'

"We should not be trying to fix children with developmental disabilities. Rather, we must create environments that allow them to thrive," she says.

Rising cost of kids' education

ANGELA MARY THOMAS

"TWO lakhs a year for LKG," exclaims Viren, a young father from Hyderabad. "I cannot imagine what a four-year-old is learning that could cost that much." Millions of Indian families share Viren's sentiment. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's (MoSPI) 2025 education survey found that households spend an average of ₹25,002 per student in private schools, compared to ₹2,863 in government schools.

pay wall

The Metro Fee Climb

Across major cities, estimated annual education spending per child has risen since 2020. Mumbai moved from ₹1.8 lakh to ₹2.5 lakh in 2020 to ₹3.5 lakh to ₹5 lakh in 2026. Bengaluru went from ₹1.3 lakh to ₹1.8 lakh to ₹2.8 lakh to ₹4 lakh, while Delhi rose from ₹1.5 lakh to ₹2 lakh to ₹3 lakh to ₹4.2 lakh.

According to the government's education survey for 2025 and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) series, while India's general inflation has remained around 4% to 6% in recent years, education costs have risen by an estimated 8% to 15% annually, particularly in private schooling, coaching, and higher education. The official Consumer Price Index (CPI) education inflation rate rose from 2.38% in January 2021 to 4.37% by June 2025. Parent groups argue that even this understates the burden on families, since the index includes lower-cost government schools and does not fully capture expenses such as coaching centres, transport, and digital learning.

"India is a welfare-driven country with schemes and support systems for people below a certain income threshold. But once you move outside that bracket, education becomes extremely expensive. The best thing the government can do for the middle class is regulate fees," Viren says.

A nationwide Local Circles survey in 2026 found that 70% of parents reported private school fee increases of more than 30% over the previous three years, with many reporting hikes between 50% and 80%. The survey also pointed to a widening gap between fee regulation on paper and enforcement in practice. "Quality does not match the price. There is no audit to show where the money is going, no checks and balances in place," says Advocate Anubha Shrivastava Sahai, President of the India Wide Parents Association. Supreme Court rulings and state-level regulations prohibit profiteering in education and allow only a 'reasonable surplus', yet oversight mechanisms remain inconsistent, leading to disputes. "Parents are often left with no real choice. If they question schools, there is always fear that their children may be targeted or isolated. But this kind of carrot-and-stick pressure cannot become the status quo," adds Anubha. Parents describe education as one of the few expenses on which families feel they cannot compromise, even while cutting back elsewhere. Viren sees more families moving toward homeschooling or alternative learning systems, driven by disillusionment with conventional schooling. "Somewhere in the middle of all the inflation and economic growth, education has started feeling more transactional than meaningful," he says.

LAST-MILE CODING

Forward deployed engineers combine software engineering with on-ground troubleshooting, helping companies bridge the gap between product and implementation

ARYA VIDYA

A FORWARD Deployed Engineer (FDE) is a hybrid between a software engineer and a strategic consultant. While a standard engineer builds products for thousands of users, an FDE deploys those products into a client's complex, real-world environment, bridging the gap between technical capability and business reality through a more personalised, client-focused approach.

Sreerag S, a Senior Forward Deployed Engineer at Migratex, Chennai, says, "I have always loved coding, but was frustrated by the 'black box' nature of traditional development, where the real-world impact of code often remains unseen." His experience leading teams across projects helped shape this perspective. He says interacting directly with clients while staying involved in technical details helps close the loop faster and makes the work feel more meaningful.

A bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Software Engineering, or Data Science, along with strong technical fundamentals, is typically required for this role. Relevant certifications include cloud credentials such as AWS or Google Cloud, DevOps and data tools like Docker, Kubernetes, Databricks, or Snowflake, and security certifications such as AWS Security Specialty, Azure AZ-500, or Google Cloud Security Engineer.

FDEs operate at the intersection of their organisation and the client's environment, and are found across sectors such as defence, finance, healthcare, IT, and logistics. Companies like Palantir, Stripe, Tesla, and Salesforce are major employers for this role. Key skills include technical versatility across tools and languages such as Python, JavaScript, SQL, Java, and frameworks like React, strong communication skills, and the ability to explain complex concepts to non-technical stakeholders.

"A typical day involves meeting clients to understand problems, working on feasibility studies and demos, and syncing with the core engineering team in the evening," explains Sreerag. In India, salaries for this role typically begin around ₹12–20 lakh per annum, while senior roles can command ₹40–80 lakh or more, with pathways into product, leadership, or advanced technical positions.

Demand for Forward Deployed Engineers is growing in India as enterprises adopt digital and AI-driven systems, increasing demand for professionals who can integrate technology into business workflows. "Aspiring students should look at how AI can be applied in traditionally overlooked domains, where it can bring visible improvements to existing workflows," Sreerag advises.

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MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Launch of Atlantis

On this day in 2009, space shuttle Atlantis was launched on the final mission to service the Hubble Space Telescope

THE MISSION

Atlantis' crew repaired and upgraded the Hubble, conducting five spacewalks during their mission to extend the life of the orbiting observatory

HIGHLIGHTS

Astronauts successfully installed 'Wide Field Camera 3' and 'Cosmic Origins Spectrograph' and repaired two other failed instruments

UPGRADE

These efforts resulted in bringing the apex of Hubble's scientific capabilities, mainly improving ability to capture HD images of the universe

CE's curated list of events in city

PG 2

TO THE MOON AND BACK

Having performed in B'luru on Saturday, *Chaand Baaliyan* fame Aditya A shares the story behind the song's 'accidental' title and why good music matters more than virality

ANJALI RAM

IT is 2023, and almost every other Instagram reel or YouTube Short seems to have the same song playing in the background – *Chaand Baaliyan*. Soft, comforting and catchy, the track found its way into playlists, eventually becoming one of the most recognisable indie songs in recent years. For many, Aditya A remains closely associated with the warmth and simplicity of *Chaand Baaliyan*.

Although he has visited B'luru only a few times, he says the city has always stood out to him for its people and atmosphere. "I have performed here once before and the crowd was really appreciative. I also have a personal connection with the city – my sister lives here," he smiles.

Despite the phenomenal reach of *Chaand Baaliyan*, Aditya says he never imagined the song would become such a massive hit. "I made it, keeping the entertainment factor in mind. I thought I should make something fun," he recalls.

The story behind the title, however, came from an unexpectedly funny moment from his personal life. "Actually, my wife wanted chaand baaliyan (crescent-moon-shaped earrings), so she asked me to buy them. I didn't know what they were, so I looked it up on the internet and the word stuck in my mind," he laughs.

Part of the song's charm, he believes, lies in its simplicity it holds. "It's a simple and happy song. It was not made with any other intention other than to please the listener," he says.

Even after becoming closely associated with one viral track, Aditya says he never felt burdened by expectations. "It's natural that people want you to create such a big hit again. But it's a romantic and fun zone that I'm already well-versed in, and I'm most comfortable in that," he says. His other songs, like *Sunday, Awaargi* and *Khwab*, further helped him continue exploring the mellow, romantic sound listeners connect him with.

However, his songwriting style, much like his music, remains rooted in everyday conversations. "Lyrically, I like to write things that I speak in my day-to-day life. But you can't just say what you say normally. So you need to tweak it according to the music," he explains. This relatability is what keeps listeners emotionally connected. With many feel-good songs under his belt, one thing many don't know about him is his likeness towards different genres. "I have been into classical music. There are a few songs which are inclined towards it. I am also into rock music – I listen to a lot of bands like Nirvana, alternative rock like R.E.M."

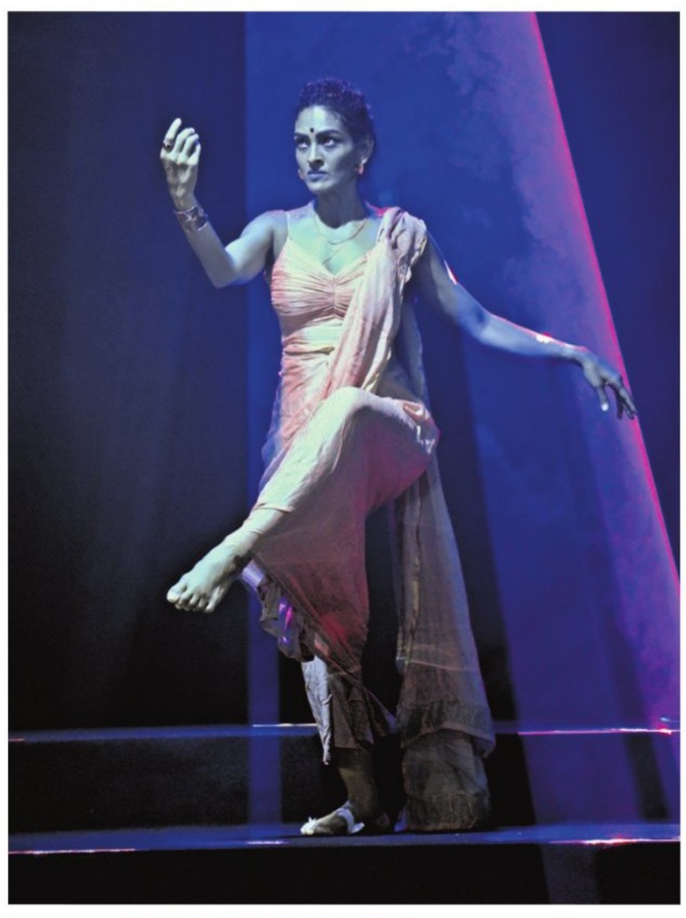
The singer further talks about the role social media played in amplifying his music, while maintaining that virality was never the end goal. "I am more of a musical person – concerned with the ears more than the eyes," the singer-songwriter says.

When asked whether *Chaand Baaliyan* ever overshadowed him as an artiste, Aditya responds with surprising ease. "People at some places still don't know me. They don't know the artiste, but they know the song, and that is okay. You need to be patient. You just need to keep making music," he says.

And if there is one thing he hopes audiences carry back after watching him perform this weekend, he says candidly, "I want people to take life a little less seriously... and see every moment as special."

Singer-songwriter Aditya A captivates Bengaluru audiences with his set list featuring tracks like *Sunday, Awaargi, Khwab* and the viral *Chaand Baaliyan*

> *Lyrically, I like to write things that I speak in my day-to-day life. But you can't just say what you say normally. So you need to tweak it according to the music*
> – Aditya A, singer-songwriter



GRACE IN MOTION

Dancer Rukmini Vijayakumar makes a spellbinding cameo in the musical *Odyssey of Love*, directed by Kevin Oliver, staged at the Good Shepherd Auditorium, Richmond Town, in collaboration with Kempegowda International Airport Foundation

CITY READ

Scholarship programme for students

East Point Group of Institutions, Aavalahalli, has announced a scholarship programme worth up to ₹3 crore for students seeking admission for the 2026–27 academic year. The initiative, launched in memory of founder chairman Dr SM Venkatpathi, offers scholarships of up to 100% across multiple categories. The Dr SM Venkatpathi Scholarship will support meritorious students, sportspersons, differently-abled students, candidates from economically-weaker sections, defence families, and other eligible categories as per institutional guidelines. Selected students may also receive free hostel accommodation, subject to approval by the scholarship committee. The scholarship applicability and percentage may vary based on the course selected, academic performance, entrance examination scores, seat category and availability. For details, email: admissions@eastpoint.ac.in.

Amateur cycling series launched

The launch of L'Étape Mysuru by Tour de France, the Indian edition of the globally-recognised amateur cycling series, was held in the city, where organisers unveiled the official website ahead of its debut edition in India. Scheduled to take place in Mysuru on October 4, the cycling event is being organised by NEB Sports in association with Karnataka Tourism. The launch event highlighted Mysuru's selection as the first Indian host city for the globally-recognised amateur cycling series inspired by the Tour de France. Organisers also shared details of the four race categories, ranging from competitive cycling to family and children's rides. The official website, featuring route information and event updates, is now live, while registrations are expected to open shortly.

With Centre Court Pickleball League kicking off recently, ex-South Asian Games tennis gold medalist Sharmada Balu & English Pickleball Open gold medal winner Anup Basti talk about making a career out of the recreational sport & more

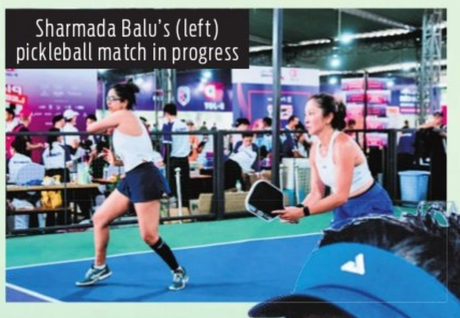
A Surprise S(w)erve

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

A former pro tennis player who has represented her nation countless times – even winning gold at the South Asian Games at the peak of her career – Sharmada Balu didn't think much of the first pickleball game she witnessed. But this scepticism quickly turned into curiosity when she picked up the racquet herself for a neighbourhood tournament. "I won the first time I played and I loved competing so much. It was at a time when I'd decided to step back from tennis and was trying to see what else I could do while staying in the sports field. Pickleball fell into my lap at the perfect time," says the player. She is now set to captain a team at Centre Court Pickleball, Bengaluru's first franchise-based pickleball league which is ongoing through May.

Transitioning from playing pro-level tennis to pickleball definitely gave her an edge, explains Balu, saying, "The transition is smooth because you're a lot fitter, quicker, and your strokes are much cleaner but as you start playing at higher levels, it gets tougher. A lot of players in the league are those who have played racquet sports at pro levels before, so the competition is intense." Some things about pickleball, though, played on a smaller court and with different rules, need more than any deeply embedded tennis instincts, as Balu shares, "You've been trained your whole life to hit the ball hard, but here, you need to slow the ball down, stay calm and only attack at certain points. I struggled with this initially."

Captaining The Rally Renegades, a team of 10 players, Balu is optimistic about their chances, especially with the opening day seeing them win four out of six matches across singles and mixed doubles categories. She says, "We have a great bunch of highly-motivated people in our team and we're in sync," she says, adding, "The crowd of around 1,200 people who had turned up to watch us play made it so much better as well. The community around the sport is lovely in Bengaluru and the league has definitely elevated the pickleball scene here."



Sharmada Balu's (left) pickleball match in progress

Anup Basti

Pickling Pro

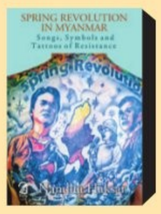
WHILE pickleball may have become immensely popular in India over the last two years with neighbourhood groups, local competitions and tournaments popping up all over – nothing could have prepared Anup Basti for the English Pickleball open – a tournament that saw 2,500 competitors from around the world. "Under one roof, there were matches happening simultaneously at 60 courts, across age categories – the scale was huge," recalls Basti, who went on to win gold in the singles category despite signing up impulsively on the suggestion of a friend. "It was a life-changing experience, because playing international tournaments is not easy, especially when you're not a trained player. Whatever skills I've learned is just by practising, watching videos and my table tennis background," says the former state-level table tennis player.

How do Indian players show up today, on the international pickleball stage with an edge? "The quality of the players from India is really good because of our culture of racquet sports. But there are a lot of unorthodox players who come from football or other sports backgrounds, some are rude and scream too, you need to adapt quickly and figure out how to play against them. Pickleball is a mental game too and Indian players just don't quit as easily as others. We consider ourselves maybe underdogs and want to prove a point," he says.

At home too, there is clearly a point to be proven as Basti's team, Rally Renegades, gave it their all. The franchise system, Basti says, is good news for players who want to go beyond apartment pickleball courts and play professionally as all players are paid to play, unlike in tournaments which usually reward winners with cash prizes. "It's a huge commitment to play every Saturday and put aside several hours for training during the week, especially since many have full-time jobs. Because of this, I missed playing in other (unpaid) leagues. It's amazing that players get paid now, from a base price of ₹10,000 to getting auctioned for up to ₹1,50,000. Even more crucial is the fact that we are getting access to resources like trainers and physical therapists."

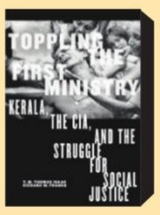
> *The transition is smooth because you're a lot fitter, quicker, and your strokes are much cleaner*
> - Sharmada Balu, former South Asian Games tennis gold medalist

BOOK NOOK



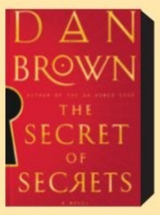
Spring Revolution
By Nandita Haksar

The book is a celebration of the spirit of resilience of Burmese people who have been fighting brutal military repression and the new cultural expressions during the spring revolution which started after the coup in February 2021.



Toppling the First Ministry: Kerala, the CIA and the Struggle for Social Justice
By TM Thomas Isaac

The book examines the rise of EMS Namboodiripad's 1957 Communist government in Kerala and its ambitious reforms.



The Secret of Secrets
By Dan Brown

A symbologist is pulled into a deadly chase across continents after a scientist's radical manuscript on human consciousness vanishes amid a brutal murder. As science and ancient myth collide, he uncovers a secret that could upend everything we believe about the human mind.

The Hunter
By Tana French

A retired detective's quiet life in rural Ireland is disrupted by a newcomer chasing hidden gold and old secrets. Slow-burning and atmospheric, it unravels greed, loyalty and the tension beneath small-town life.

3, 2, 1...GO!

Participants jog along at the Wings For Life World Run at Depot 18, Jayamahal Road | KEVIN NASHON

QUICKFIX

TAWA PANEER TIKKA

INGREDIENTS

- **Paneer:** 200 g, sliced into cubes
- **Hung curd:** 1/2 cup (approx. 120 g)
- **Vegetables:** 1 cup, your choice (onions, bell peppers, tomatoes), diced
- **Red chilli powder, turmeric and garam masala:** to taste
- **Oil:** 1-2 tbsp, for pan-frying

METHOD

- In a large bowl, combine the hung curd with red chilli powder, turmeric, garam masala and salt to create a thick marinade.
- Add the paneer cubes and your choice of vegetables to the bowl. Gently massage the marinade into the ingredients until everything is evenly coated.
- Cover and let the mixture marinate in the refrigerator for at least 1 hour.
- Heat oil in a tawa or flat pan over medium-high heat. Place the marinated paneer and vegetables on the pan.
- Pan-fry until the paneer turns golden brown and the vegetables are tender yet charred. Serve warm.

Contributed by **Shweta Gupta,** New Delhi

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Crown Vet, Delhi.

My 7-year-old Imperial Shih Tzu sometimes wakes up screaming during deep sleep, stiff and tense, but calms down when reassured. She is otherwise healthy. What should I watch for and when should I see a vet?

Your 7-year-old Imperial Shih Tzu's episodes of screaming, stiffness and tension during deep sleep may be due to night terrors, vivid dreaming, or age-related neurological changes. Factors like stress, changes in routine, or mild arthritis pain can also trigger these episodes. Keep an eye on any increase in frequency, duration or intensity and watch for daytime signs such as disorientation, weakness, tremors or balance issues, which may indicate a more serious problem. If episodes persist, worsen or are accompanied by seizures, pain, or unusual behaviour, seek a veterinary evaluation promptly. Providing a quiet, consistent sleep environment can help reduce stress.

ASK AN XPERT

FITBIT

YOGA FOR RELAXATION: SIMPLE POSES TO UNWIND

With everyday life and chaotic schedules, one might feel a bit trapped in this busy world with stress weighing down on them. Yoga offers a way to effectively slow down and reconnect while releasing this accumulated stress. With a few simple poses and mindful breathing, relaxation can become an accessible daily habit.

CHILD'S POSE (GENTLE GROUNDING)

- Kneel and fold forward, resting your forehead on the floor
- Extend arms forward or alongside your body

Benefits

- Encourages a sense of safety and calm
- Gently stretches the back and hips

LEGS-UP-THE-WALL POSE (INSTANT STRESS RELIEF)

- Lie on your back with legs resting vertically against a wall
- Keep arms relaxed by your sides

Benefits

- Helps improve circulation and reduce fatigue
- Particularly effective after long, tiring days

SEATED FORWARD FOLD (RELEASE BUILT-UP TENSION)

- Sit with legs extended and reach toward your feet
- Allow your upper body to relax without forcing the stretch

Benefits

- Releases tension in the back, neck and hamstrings
- Encourages introspection and stillness

SUPINE TWIST (RELAX AND DETOX)

- Lie on your back and gently twist your knees to one side
- Keep shoulders grounded

Benefits

- Helps release spinal tension and improve digestion
- Promotes a sense of letting go

CORPSE POSE (DEEP RELAXATION)

- Lie flat on your back, arms relaxed, palms facing up
- Close your eyes and focus on slow breathing
- Stay here for 5–10 minutes

Benefits

- Allows the body and mind to fully absorb relaxation

Yoga provides a simple way to release stress and restore balance. These calming poses helps you create space to reset, recharge, and approach life with greater ease and clarity.

By Indira Chavva, yoga expert, cult – a fitness and wellness platform

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Peace of Mind

Explore a style of yoga that blends the structure and discipline of Ashtanga with the fluidity and creativity of Vinyasa while taking inspiration from a range of movement modalities, including Pilates, barre and functional fitness. Experience a flow that challenges the body, calms the mind and keeps things fresh.

WHEN: May 11, 9.30am
WHERE: Nidhaana, Yelahanka
CALL: 97411 53242

Story Time

Enrol your kids in this story club where tales jump off the page through read-alouds, dramatic play, puppet shows and sensory storytelling for your little ones. Recommended for children ages 1 and above.

WHEN: May 11, 4pm
WHERE: Coro, Domlur
CALL: 91486 66480

Funny Bones

With a comedy show that includes a surprise lineup of both new and seasoned comics dishing out new jokes, enjoy a fun start to the week with good food and stomach-aching laughs. With both English and Hindi comics performing, sit back and giggle away.

WHEN: May 11, 8.30pm
WHERE: Klayworkz Barista, JP Nagar
DETAILS: district.in

Missing Piece

Experience a relaxed, off-screen evening where you can piece together beautiful images. Try puzzles from new brands, get a little competitive with some speed puzzling and carry your puzzles to solve, sell, or swap with others.

WHEN: May 11, 6.30pm
WHERE: Underline Center, Domlur
CALL: 97905 32594

Punjabi Swaad

Relish the culinary heritage of Punjab's aristocratic households at this pop up where recipes passed down through generations came together. Among the highlights are the katambari kebab from the Patiala royal kitchens, the kibti once reserved for the maharaja's table and the slow-simmered maah di dal.

WHEN: Till May 17, 7pm
WHERE: JW Kitchen, JW Marriott Bengaluru, Vittal Mallya Road
CALL: 88844 94037

Splish Splash

Dive into an ultimate pool party experience with two hours of pool access, draught beers and DJ music under the stars. Float the heat away with a rooftop ambience and night views.

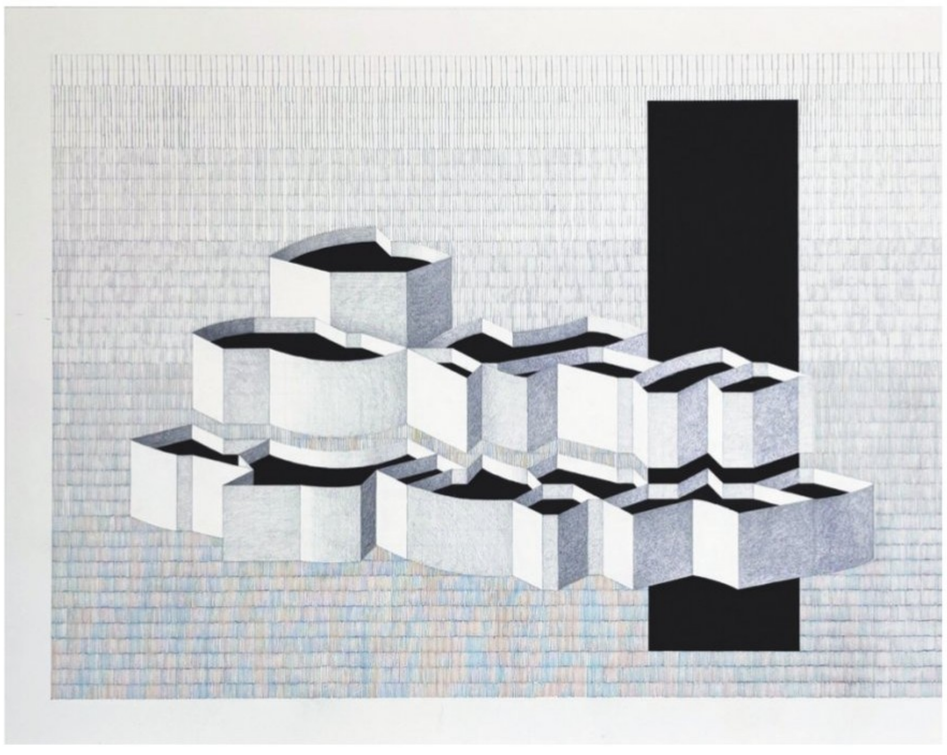
WHEN: May 11, 11am onwards
WHERE: Bigg Shots, Devanahalli
CALL: 90356 81405

Chug Chug Chug

Enjoy unlimited beer for 60 minutes (at ₹999) in an atmosphere packed with high-energy music and nonstop groove. Whether you're planning a night out with friends or celebrating a fresh week, unwind with endless chilled pours.

WHEN: May 11, 6pm
WHERE: Yeda Republic, Koramangala
DETAILS: district.in

ARTCORNER



LAYERED IN BLACK AND WHITE

Artist Raj Jariwala creates a geometric composition exploring form, depth and repetition through layered structures

FROZEN FLAVOURS

As the heat refuses to let up, a cold popsicle can bring sweet relief. Try these homemade popsicles – fresh, fruity and the perfect indulgence on a long summer day.

Compiled by Neha Jagath

Ingredients

- Coconut water: 1 ½ cups
- Green kiwis: 4 (3 cups sliced)
- Honey: 3-4 tbsp
- Lemon juice: 2 tsp

Method: Blend fresh coconut water with green kiwis, honey and lemon juice to a smooth mixture. Pour the mixture into popsicle moulds, leaving about a quarter-inch space at the top to allow for expansion as they freeze. Secure the lids, insert the sticks, and place the moulds in the freezer for at least six hours or overnight. When ready to serve, run the moulds under warm water for about 10 to 15 seconds to loosen them, then gently slide the popsicles out for a refreshing, naturally sweet treat.

STRAWBERRIES & CREAM

Ingredients

- Strawberries: 1 cup
- Vanilla ice cream/ yoghurt: ½ cup
- Milk: 1 cup
- Sugar: 1 tbsp

Method: Hull the strawberries and add them to a blender along with the vanilla ice cream (or yoghurt), milk and sugar. Blend the mixture thoroughly until it becomes completely smooth and creamy, with no visible chunks remaining. Carefully pour the mixture into popsicle moulds. Insert sticks in each mould and place the moulds in the freezer. Allow them to freeze for six hours or overnight until fully set and firm. Once frozen, gently remove the popsicles from the moulds and serve immediately for a refreshing, creamy strawberry treat.

TENDER COCONUT

Ingredients

- Tender coconut flesh: 2 coconuts
- Thick coconut mylk: 1 cup
- Heavy cream: ½ cup
- Honey (or condensed milk): 3 tbsp
- Salt: a pinch

Method: Blend the flesh of one tender coconut until smooth. Add the coconut mylk, heavy cream, sweetener of choice (honey/ condensed milk) and salt. Blend again until completely combined. Chop the remaining tender coconut flesh into small pieces and stir it into the popsicle mixture. Pour the mixture into popsicle moulds and freeze for six hours or overnight until fully set. When you're ready to serve, briefly run the moulds under warm water for 10-15 seconds to loosen them, then gently slide out the popsicles.

WATERMELON ROOH AFZA

Ingredients

- Watermelon: 500 g (peeled, deseeded, and chopped into chunks)
- Rooh Afza: ¼ cup
- Sabja seeds: ½ tsp

Method: Soak the sabja seeds in ¼ cup of water for about 30 minutes. Drain water and set aside. Blend the watermelon and Rooh Afza and stir in the seeds. Mix well. Pour the mixture into popsicle moulds and freeze until completely solid, ideally overnight. When ready to serve, run the moulds under water or dip them in a glass of water for about 10-15 seconds, then gently remove the popsicles and enjoy.

ORANGE CREAMSICLE

Ingredients

- Coconut mylk: 400 ml
- Orange zest: 1 tsp
- Orange segments: 1.5 cups
- Honey: 3-4 tbsp
- Vanilla extract: 2 tsp

Method: Blend 400ml full-fat coconut mylk, orange zest, the orange segments, honey and vanilla extract in a high-speed blender until completely smooth. Taste and adjust the sweetness if needed (slightly sweeter before freezing). Pour into popsicle moulds, then insert sticks and freeze for at least six hours or overnight until firm. To remove, run the moulds under warm water for 10-15 seconds and gently slide the popsicles out.

MANGO POPSICLE

Ingredients

- Mango: 1
- Coconut mylk: ¾ cup
- Condensed milk: ¼ cup
- Mango pieces: ¼ cup

Method: Peel and cut one ripe mango into small pieces, then measure out about ¾ cup of these pieces and add them to a blender. Pour in ¾ cup of coconut mylk along with ¼ cup of condensed milk and blend everything until the mixture turns smooth and creamy. Transfer the mixture to a bowl and gently fold in an additional ¼ cup of fresh mango pieces. Mix well so the chunks are evenly distributed, then pour the mixture into ice cream moulds. Insert sticks into each mould and place them in the freezer for about 6-8 hours. Once frozen, remove the popsicles from the moulds and they are ready.

JAMUN POPSICLE

Ingredients

- Java plums (Jamuns): 15-20 (seeded and chopped)
- Sugar: ½ cup
- Roasted cumin powder: ½ tsp
- Black salt: 1 tsp
- Chaat masala: ½ tsp
- Lemon: Half

Method: Warm a nonstick pan and add ½ cup of water along with sugar. Stir until the sugar dissolves completely, then set aside. Blend jamuns with roasted cumin powder, black salt and chaat masala. Pour in the cooled sugar syrup and mix thoroughly. Add freshly-squeezed lemon juice and stir. Pour the mixture into popsicle moulds, insert sticks and freeze for 6-8 hours. Remove from the moulds and serve chilled.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BHATTA NARASIMHAMURTHY, Presently residing at No.C82, YASH(Ghodasar) Society, Opp. Jagadish Society, Behind Hari Om Nagar, Ahmadabad City, Gujarat-380050, India, do hereby declare that my name is changed from BHATTA NARASIMHAMURTHY to NARASIMHA MURTHY BHATTA, vide affidavit dated 09-05-2026 sworn before notary S N MADHU, Kathriguppe, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

We, MUTHURAJU T G AND SHILPA G Both are Presently residing at No.653, Talagavadi, Malavalli, Mandya, Karnataka, India, do hereby declare that our Daughter name is changed from MUDITHA M to MANASWINI M, vide affidavit dated 07-05-2026 sworn before notary S N MADHU, Kathriguppe, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BHATTA ESHAN NARASIMHAMURTHY, Presently residing at No.C82, YASH(Ghodasar) Society, Opp. Jagadish Society, Behind Hari Om Nagar, Ahmadabad City, Gujarat-380050, India, do hereby declare that my name is changed from BHATTA ESHAN NARASIMHAMURTHY to ESHAN BHATTA, vide affidavit dated 09-05-2026 sworn before notary S N MADHU, Kathriguppe, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **KHARKA BAHADUR SUBBA**, Father of No.13630518A, Rank NK Name: **BISWASH SUBBA**, residing at Nami PW, 31A NH Way, Namli Busty 9th Mile, Namli GPU, Tumlabung, PO: Ranipool, District: East, State: Sikkim Pin Code: 737135do have changed my name from **KHARKA BAHADUR SUBBA** (old name) to **KHARKA BAHADUR LIMBU** (new name) & my date of birth is 01 Oct.1971 vide affidavit dated: 07-05-2026 before Notary, Sivakumara M.N. Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **GAYATHRI BANTVAL BALIGA,** resident of Flat No A3, Sri Krishna Residency, 9th Cross, JP Nagar 1st Phase, Bengaluru 560078 have changed my name to **BANTVAL GAYATHRI BALIGA** vide affidavit dated: 6/5/2026 Before Notary Mohammed **Hussain.K** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ARJUN RAJ URS.D,** S/o Late M.K. Deshraj, age 61 yers, R/at 1419, 4th Cross, E-Block, Behind E Block Water Tank, AECS Layout, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560037 do hereby declare that both the names of my son i.e. **VEISHISHT** and **VEISHISHT ANAND URS** are one and the same and refers to my son only, henceforth he shall be known and called as **VEISHISHT ANAND URS** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 8th May 2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **RAVI KUMAR .V** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **VENNILA**, W/o. Mr. Senthilnaathan, residing at Flat No. 202, Sai Jyothi Tulips, 10th Cross, 2nd Main Road, Manjunatha Layout, Munnekolala, Marathahalli Post, Bangalore-560037, Karnataka, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **VENNILA S** to **VENNILA**, vide affidavit dated 09.05.2026, sworn to before K.V. Jagannath Reddy, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Sri. Ramesh,** son of Narangaji, aged about 35 years, Adhaar No.5910 1905 3159, residing at E-4795/2 2nd Main Road, Ramachandrapuram, Sriramapura, Bengaluru-560021. I have changed my name to **Hadamata Ram** for all purpose vide affidavit dated 08-05-2026 sworn before Notary P.N Nagesh Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

We, **Narasareddy Rajasekhar Reddy Yaddala and Sandhya Yaddala,** parents of **Avanthika Reddy Yaddala,** both residing at: Flat No.B-103, Hilife Pearl shell Apartment, Balagere Road, Varthur, Bangalore-560087. Hereby declare that, we have changed our minor Daughter's name from **'AVANTHIKA YADDALA & YADDALA AVANTHIKA'** to **'AVANTHIKA REDDY YADDALA',** vide Affidavit dated 09.05.2026, Sworn before Advocate and Notary A.M. Rajasekar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VELAYUDHAM KUMAR
S/o. Velayudhan
Residing at No.193, 4th Main, BEML Layout, Basaveshwara Nagar, Bangalore-560079
have changed my name to
VELAYUDHAN KUMAR
vide affidavit dated: 07-05-2026
Sworn before Notary
A.Manjula, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Mahesh S Hiremath,** S/O Suryakath Hiremath, Residing at H No.189, 7th Main, 3rd Cross, Mathikere, Bangalore - 560054, do hereby solemnly declare that **Mahesh** and **Mahesh S Hiremath** both the names are one and the same. I further declare that I have changed my name from **Mahesh** to **Mahesh S Hiremath** vide Affidavit dated 08.05.2026, sworn before Notary A Manjula Bangalore who is gazetted officer and Lawyer and going refered as **Mahesh S Hiremath** for further communication

CHANGE OF NAME

I, No.7776484M, Ex-Sep **Kumar.V,** S/o, late R Velu, residing at #227, Aishwarya Nivas, Muneshwara Temple Block, Ramachandrapura, Jalahalli, Bengaluru 560013, have changed the name of my spouse from **Revathy** to **Dr. Revathy Selva Kumari S,** vide Affidavit Dated: 06/05/2026 sworn before XXIX Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru City.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ASHWINI BHAT,** aged about 44 years, W/o. Pramod Manjunath Hegde, residing at ISHAVASYAM, 586, F-S2, 15th Main, 20th 'B' Cross, K.K. Cross, Narayana Nagar 1st Block, Doddakallasandra, Bengaluru-560062, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ASHWINI HEGDE** to **ASHWINI BHAT,** vide affidavit dated 09.05.2026, sworn to before K.C. Shashikala, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MUNMUN MAHESH MOHATTA,** aged about 30 years, W/o. Parag Hurkat, Flat 204, Tower 1 RRL Palacio Sarjapura Attibelle Road, Billapura, Bengaluru-562125, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MUNMUN MOHATTA** to **MUNMUN MAHESH MOHATTA,** vide affidavit dated 08.05.2026, sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

We, **Narasareddy Rajasekhar Reddy Yaddala and Sandhya Yaddala,** parents of **Harika Reddy Yaddala,** both residing at: Flat No.B-103, Hilife Pearl shell Apartment, Balagere Road, Varthur, Bangalore-560087. Hereby declare that, we have changed our minor Daughter's name from **'HARIKA YADDALA & YADDALA HARIKA'** to **'HARIKA REDDY YADDALA',** vide Affidavit dated 09.05.2026, Sworn before Advocate and Notary A.M. Rajasekar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

We, **Mr. Madhav Deshmukh** S/o. Mr. Nanasaheb Deshmukh, aged about 44 years, (Aadhar: 2169 L672 4143) And **Mrs. Archana Nayak** W/o Mr. Madhav Deshmukh, aged about 46 years, (Aadhar 9467 2374 0137) Both are Residing at No. Flat No.23, 2nd Floor, Tower- 4, pebble Bay Apartment, RMV Stage-2, sanjaynagar, Bengaluru- 560095. We state that our daughter's when her old school certificate was issued her name is wrongly mentioned as **"AVIKA MADHAV DESHMUKH"** and now her name continue as **"AVIKA DESHMUKH"** and same need to be updated in future school records. vide Affidavit dated 08.05.2026 sworn to before Notary S. Samuel soloman, Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Mr.V.ESHWARA RAO**, aged 62years, S/o.Late. Vagoji Rao, residing at No.23/A, 3rd Floor, 7th B Cross, Pipeline, malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560003, My mother name has been mentioned as Smt. Lakshmi Bai and few documents it has been mentioned as Smt. Pandari Bai in the documents and mentioned above belonging to my mother. As it may both **Smt. Lakshmi Bai and even Smt. Pandari Bai both names are my mother's name for said purpose** vide affidavit dated 30.04.2026 sworn before Advocate & Notary B.M.Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **AJEYA KUMAR**, aged 39 years, S/o. Hanumantha Char, presently residing at No. 01, 3rd Cross, Ground Floor, B.V. Raman Nagar, Hunasamaranahalli, Bengaluru-562157, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **AJEYA KUMARA H** to **AJEYA KUMAR**, vide affidavit dated 09.04.2026, sworn to before Aravind Patil G.G., Advocate & Notary, Govt. of Karnataka, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SIRI CHANDANA B.S.** D/o Sunil B S, residing at Flat No. 502, Siri Woods Apartment, 5th Floor, Uttarahalli Main Road, Friends Colony, Opp to Bharath Petrol Bunk, Subramanyapura, Post Office, Bangalore-560061, have changed my name as **SIRI CHANDANA B,** vide affidavit dated 9-5-2026 before Notary Public ARAVIND PATIL G.G., Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **J MURALI KRISHNA,**
S/O R JAYARAMAN, Aged 40 years,
residing at No. 37, 1st Cross,
2nd Main Pothalappa Garden,
Bangalore 560030,
have changed my name from
MURALIKRISHNAN J to
J MURALI KRISHNA
for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 08/05/2026, sworn before Advocate & Notary Public, S. Jayanth, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANITA SHARASHCHANDRA SULEBHAVI , Presentl residing at G4,V R Apartments, Uttarahalli Main Road, Gowdanapalya, Padmanabha Nagar, Bengaluru-560061, Karnataka, India, do hereby declare that my name is changed from **ANITA SHARASHCHANDRA SULEBHAVI** to **ANITA HARISH KENCHANNAVAR,** vide affidavit dated 29-04-2026 sworn before notary S N MADHU, Kathriguppe, Bengaluru.

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SAMUEL ABY ENCOURAGED ME TO TRY PLAYBACK SINGING : SHILPA GANESH

Shilpa Ganesh enters into a new creative space with *Picture*, a Kannada–Tulu family entertainer, in which she makes her debut as a playback singer

Shilpa Ganesh

A SHARADHAA

SHILPA GANESH, who is producing *Picture* under her Golden Movies banner, steps into a new creative space with the bilingual Kannada–Tulu family entertainer directed by Sandeep Bedra and starring Nithyaprakash Bantwal.

The film's talking point is its second single "Gokulada Radhe", which also marks Shilpa's debut as a playback singer in both Kannada and Tulu. She shares vocals with singer Jaskaran Singh, best known for "Dwapara" from *Krishnam Prayana Sakhi*. The Kannada lyrics is written by Arasu Antare, while Kirthan Bhandari has penned the Tulu version.

Composed by Samuel Aby, the track was filmed in Kashmir, and has been received warmly. For Shilpa, the move into singing was unexpected but organic. "Samuel Aby encouraged me to try playback singing. He was confident I could do it," she says, adding, "My husband (actor Ganesh) always knew I could sing, and he was happy I made this attempt. What's overwhelming is that the audience listening to the song is surprised. They didn't know this side of me, and it is overwhelming to see their response."

Asked why she waited so long, she keeps it simple. "Ganesh and I don't push ourselves into things just because we can. If it has to happen, it happens at the right time. This film was made under our production house, and I finally decided to try. Fortunately, it worked out well."

Shilpa also reveals that her daughter Charitrya is a good singer, and shares that she just might sing for a Ganesh film someday

On singing along with Jaskaran Singh, Shilpa says, "He is an amazing singer. Matching his voice was challenging, but also very inspiring."

Picture is written by Sandeep Bedra, who also handles the screenplay and dialogues. The technical team includes cinematographers Santosh Rai Pathaje and KS Chandrasekhar, editor Raju Aryan, choreographers Dhananjay B and Shriraju, art directors Radhesh and Santosh Poojary, and stunt director Thriller Manju.

The film also stars Amrutha Sud, Devadas Kapikad, Naveen D Padil, Aravind Bolar, and Bhojaraj Vamanjoor.

Nithyaprakash Bantwal

Raj B Shetty makes his Hindi debut in Anurag Kashyap's *Bandar*

CE FEATURES

KANNADA filmmaker-actor Raj B Shetty is stepping into Hindi cinema with a rather unconventional debut. In *Bandar*, directed by Anurag Kashyap and headlined by Bobby Deol, Raj is set to appear in a brief role, which was revealed in the teaser. Reportedly, Raj's appearance in the film stems from Anurag's admiration for the Kannada actor-filmmaker's *Garuda Gamana Vrishabha Vahana*.

Bandar, which is set for release on June 5, will feature Raj in a song sequence. Having established himself as a strong voice in South Indian cinema, the actor-filmmaker is now set to introduce his work to Hindi audiences. Expectations around *Bandar* are particularly high because of Anurag Kashyap's involvement, and the early reviews from the festival circuit. The filmmaker has long admired Raj B Shetty's performances, especially after watching *Garuda Gamana Vrishabha Vahana*

A still from the film

Over time, Anurag Kashyap and Raj B Shetty are believed to have developed a close creative friendship, which reportedly led to the Kannada actor-filmmaker making a guest appearance in *Bandar*.

The crime thriller, inspired by a real-life incident, is written by Sudip Sharma and Abhishek Banerjee. Produced under the banner of Saffron Magicworks and distributed by Zee Studios, the film also stars Saba Azad, Sanya Malhotra and Sapna Pabbi.

Balan: The Boy gets June release

CE FEATURES

MANJUMMEL Boys-fame Chidambaram's upcoming directorial, *Balan: The Boy*, is all set to have its theatrical release on June 19. According to the makers, the film touches upon themes of identity and survival, with the bond between a mother and son at its core.

The director has also written the script along with Jithu Madhavan, the director of *Aavesham* (2024). Sushin Shyam is on board as the composer, continuing his collaboration with Chidambaram after *Manjummel Boys* (2024). The crew of *Balan: The Boy* includes Shyju Khalid as the cinematographer, Vivek Harshan as the editor, Ajayan Chalissery as the production designer.

Venkat K Narayana produces *Balan: The Boy* under his KVN Productions banner, along with Shailaja Desai Fenn who is backing under her Thespian Films banner. The filmis set to be featured at the *Marche du Film*, the official film market held alongside the Cannes Film Festival.

SU FROM SO OPENED DOORS BEYOND KANNADA CINEMA: JP THUMINAD

The actor-director, making his Malayalam debut with Manju Warrier's *Happiloop*, says he was waiting for the right story to enter new avenues

CE FEATURES

JP THUMINAD, who created a sensation with *Su From So*, is set to make his debut in Malayalam cinema with *Vaazha* director Anand Menen's *Happiloop*, starring Manju Warrier and Mukesh.

"I was born and brought up in Mangaluru, but I spent more than 20 years in Manjeshwar, right on the Kerala border. That's where I became familiar with the language and Malayalam cinema," says Thuminad, adding that *Su From So* played a key role in opening doors beyond Kannada cinema. Interestingly, *Su from So* won a lot of acclaim with the release of its Malayalam version in Kerala.

"After *Su From So*, I did get a few Malayalam offers. But I was waiting for the right story and the right character. I found that in *Happiloop*. It's a feel-good film, and I'm happy to be working with such a strong cast and a good director," he reveals.

JP Thuminad is expected to join the sets of *Happiloop* soon. Backed by Binish Chandra's Movie Bucket banner, the film is set to have cinematography by Gautham Shankar, and music by Electronic Kili (of *Vaazha* fame) and Parvathish Pradeep.

Thuminad, who recently got married, is also balancing commitments back home in Kannada cinema. "I have a lot happening in Kannada as well. When this opportunity came, I decided to just go ahead, shoot, and come back. I'll be announcing my other Kannada projects soon once things are locked."

CE FEATURES

Disha Patani to make her Hollywood debut

HINDI actor Disha Patani is making her Hollywood debut alongside veteran Kevin Spacey in the upcoming film *Holiguards Saga — The Portal of Force*.

The latest trailer from the film revealed that she is a part of it. Disha is playing Jessica in the film that revolves around the epic supernatural showdown between the two warring ancient factions: The Statiguards and *The Holiguards*. While the Statiguards stand for order, to hold the world together, the Holiguards operate by a very different set of rules. Disha's Jessica is being described as the "Chosen One" who acts as a bridge between the factions.

The film marks the beginning of a new cinematic universe created by Lado Okhotnikov. Calling her Hollywood debut "thrilling and terrifying," Disha said in an official release that she had "waited with bated breath for the trailer of this very special project".

Last seen in *O'Romeo*, she awaits the release of *Welcome to the Jungle* and *Awarapan 2*.

'The moment I heard the Yellamma song, I wanted to back the film'

...says producer Pola Praveen Kumar, who has backed Gurumurthy's *Shikhandi*, which is billed to be a blend of mythology-inspired themes and commercial storytelling

CE FEATURES

SHIKHANDI, inspired by the complex and symbolic character from the Mahabharata, is directed by Gurumurthy V and produced by Pola Praveen Kumar. The film is set to release on May 15. Though the team refrained from revealing major plot details, *Shikhandi* appears to blend mythology-inspired themes with mainstream commercial storytelling. But for the team behind the film, *Shikhandi* is not merely about mythology, but also about emotion, identity and a story that can travel beyond borders.

Director Gurumurthy V said the intrigue surrounding the title was intentional from the beginning. "The character of *Shikhandi* from the Mahabharata forms the emotional base of our story. We wanted the title itself to create curiosity, but at the same time, the film had to justify that curiosity with strong storytelling," he said. Gurumurthy, who previously directed Malashri's Marakastra, said, "Every artist and technician supported the vision completely. Producer Praveen Kumar made sure there were no compromises in production, and that helped us shape the film the way we imagined it."

A still from the film

The director also revealed that while *Shikhandi* will first release in Kannada, the makers are planning a wider multilingual rollout later. "We are releasing the film in Kannada next week, and later we plan to take it to other languages as well."

For producer Pola Praveen Kumar, the journey into cinema began unexpectedly. A hotelier by profession, he admitted that filmmaking was never part of his original plan. "Gurumurthy had been approaching me for almost two months about producing this film, but I wasn't immediately convinced," he said. What eventually changed his mind was a song from the film dedicated to Yellamma. "The moment he played me that song, I agreed instantly. There was honesty and emotion in it. That song is the reason I became a producer," he said.

Praveen Kumar added that the film turned into a family-backed effort, with support coming from both his loved ones and the team working on the project. "The film has come out beautifully, and I've also acted in it," he said.

Lead actor Yuvaraj Gowda described *Shikhandi* as the fulfilment of a personal ambition. Originally from Mysuru, the actor said he had always dreamed of becoming a hero. "That dream has come true through this film," he said.

The film also marks the debut of actress Khyathi, who called the project an important beginning in her career. Actors Nikitha Swamy, Bigg Boss-fame Neethu, Vedha, Chandini and Raghavendra are also part of the ensemble. Music composer and lyricist Manju Kavi, who created the Yellamma song that convinced the producer to back the film, described the track as emotionally significant within the story.